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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TORRES of New York).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 9, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RITCHIE TORRES to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Lord, You wait to be gracious to us. In Your infinite regard, You stand at the ready, waiting to share the enormity of Your loving kindness to each of us.

Pierce the most hardened of hearts that we would accept Your tender care.

Lord, You have promised to show mercy to us. In Your boundless love, You want to take us into your compassionate embrace that we would know of Your forgiveness.

Pierce the most secret corners of our hearts that we would relax in Your acceptance.

Lord, You are a God of justice, blessing those who trust that You have the final word over the injustice and evil in this world.

Pierce the most doubting heart, that in the face of all that we fear, we would discover that our hope is found only in You.

We give our hearts to You this day, trusting in the salvation of Your holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

RESTORING POWER TO WOMEN

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, in an important moment of bipartisanship on Monday, this Chamber passed the Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act of 2021.

Over 75 percent of Members voted to restore power to women, who far too often have been at the mercy of powerful men and even more powerful companies.

This bill is not simply about arbitration, but about ending forced arbitration.

According to the EEOC, one in four women have been sexually harassed at work.

For many, the fear of retaliation and being blackballed stops them from coming forward.

And the women who do find the courage to come forward can be challenged by the confidentiality clause so often tied to forced arbitration clauses in employment contracts.

This legislation will give sexual harassment and assault survivors the freedom to decide legal action.

This bill goes beyond recourse for the victim. It is about redress in a court of law, not in a closed arbitration room.

Because that is justice. I look forward to Senate passage.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PATRICIA ANN LEMAY HOCKING

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of the First Lady of Bee Cave, Texas, and former First Lady of La Marque, Texas, Patricia Ann LeMay Hocking.

Patti, as she was affectionately known, was a fascinating woman with a colorful background. From an early age, Patti loved ballet. Patti took ballet lessons with the Houston Ballet Foundation. Patti worked hard in pursuit of that goal, and eventually, she danced professionally with the Houston Ballet Company.

Patti graduated from Incarnate Word Academy in downtown Houston, married Mr. Robert Ellis Hocking—Bobby Hocking—and they settled in Bee Cave, Texas, where she built, owned, and ran her first of two dance studios.

After Bee Cave was incorporated in 1987, Bobby Hocking was elected the town's very first mayor. Patti was always by his side as his biggest fan and supporter. They traveled together internationally when Bobby was lead singer in many bands, then as a gospel singer and evangelist. It was Patti's prayers and influence that brought Bobby back to his roots, and they spent many years in the ministry,

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copastoring churches in Oklahoma and Texas.

Most recently, the city of La Marque was the beneficiary of her generous spirit and gift of public service. Patti was devoted to and passionate about her faith, her family, and her community. A gracious, giving, and loving woman, Patti was adored by all who met her.

Mr. Speaker, First Lady Hocking will be sorely missed, and I send Bobby our love.

CONGRESS MUST ACT TO IMPROVE AMERICA'S SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the critical need for Congress to act to improve our Nation's supply chain issues.

Last week, the House took a big step to make sure that the products we rely on are available for all Americans by passing the America COMPETES Act.

The pandemic turned all of our lives upside down. What that disruption revealed are longstanding problems in how much we rely on foreign manufacturing and foreign ingenuity.

House Democrats have taken bold, decisive action to authorize $45 billion to fix these issues.

We will build more critical components right here in America.

We will strengthen our national security by cultivating domestic sources and investing in American workers.

And we will never again face shortages of goods needed for the safety and health of our communities across America.

RECOGNIZING VINCENT J. DELMONTE

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the CEO of the Frank Callen Boys & Girls Club, Vincent DelMonte.

Vincent has been a leader for the Boys & Girls Clubs for nearly 20 years and, with his retirement, leaves behind a legacy of selflessness and service.

The Boys & Girls Club's mission is to enable all young people to reach their full potential. Vincent certainly did that, and more.

Vincent assumed his role during a time of severe financial turmoil.

Vincent was able to navigate these troubles carefully and eloquently, making the Frank Callen Boys & Girls Club one of the Nation's top clubs.

With renewed finances and a heightened status, the club went on to improve the lives of not only its many members but the communities they serve under Vincent's guidance.

We hope Vincent truly enjoys his retirement. After what Vincent has done for the Frank Callen Boys & Girls Club, he has certainly done more than his fair share for our community.

Vincent is the type of man many should strive to be, someone who leaves the community he loved better than he found it.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Vincent on his well-deserved retirement.

CONDEMNING THE FORCED REMOVAL OF SUDAN'S TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly condemn the recent forced removal of Sudan's transitional government by Sudan's military forces.

Before the October coup by military leaders, Sudan's civilian-led government was positively reengaging with the United States and the rest of the world, including being removed from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list and opening up the Sudanese economy for foreign investment.

The Sudanese people have bravely stood up to demand the right to democratically choose their own future after decades of oppression under a previous regime. The Sudanese military must respect the rights of the Sudanese people.

America must stand with those who want democracy, including the people of Sudan. The U.S. and our allies must use every diplomatic tool available to restore stability and civilian-led control of Sudan's government.

Thousands of Sudanese civilians are risking their lives every day for democracy, and the United States must align its policies to support their democratic aspirations.

RECOGNIZING FORT MOSE IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I would like to recognize a special place in my district, Fort Mose.

Near St. Augustine, Florida, it was the first legally sanctioned, free Black settlement in what is now the United States.

As early as the late 1600s, freedom seekers escaped enslavement in the English colonies and made their way to St. Augustine, then under Spanish rule.

An estimated 100 Africans were then given freedom in exchange for adopting Catholicism and declaring allegiance to Spain.

In 1994, the Fort Mose site was designated as a historic national landmark.

Fort Mose embodies the fight for freedom by Black Americans in the early days of our country, and it highlights a piece of Black history that is dramatically different from the more familiar story of slavery and oppression.

CONGRESS MUST FIGHT WHITE SUPREMACY

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

Ms. BOURDEAUX. Mr. Speaker, in the fall of 1912, Forsyth County, in my district was the site of an appalling racial cleansing.

Following the death of a White woman named Mae Crow, three Black men, Rob Edwards, Ernest Knox, and Oscar Daniel, were accused of her murder and lynched without due process.

Following this, White men on horseback dubbed ''night riders'' rode throughout Forsyth County terrorizing families and burning Black churches, homes, and businesses, ultimately driving out over 1,100 Black residents.

Forsyth County continued to have little to no Black residents for almost a century.

Today, I am introducing a resolution condemning the lynchings of Rob Edwards, Oscar Daniel, and Ernest Knox in 1912 and condemning the actions of the white supremacist mobs which forced out nearly the entire Black population of Forsyth County.

It is particularly important during Black History Month that we as a Nation acknowledge horrific events such as this one and honor the memory of the victims of these tragedies.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and reaffirm this body's commitment to fighting white supremacy and seeking justice to right the wrongs of our past.

RECOGNIZING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize February as Career and Technical Education Month.

During this month, we celebrate and highlight the value career and technical education, or CTE, which restores the rungs on the ladder of opportunity for many individuals and gives them the tools to succeed.

As the co-chair of the Bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus and a senior member of the House Committee on Education and Labor, I have always supported, and will continue to support, CTE programs that provide learners of all ages with career-ready skills.

Our students should be aware of their educational options and understand a bachelor's degree is not the only path to a meaningful, family-sustaining career.

A highly skilled workforce is important to the success of America's economic growth and competitiveness.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN from Rhode Island, for joining me and introducing this resolution to recognize the importance of career and technical education.

We will continue to work hard to close the Nation's skills gap.

IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022, bipartisan legislation to help the U.S. Postal Service remain financially viable and ensure it provides the high quality of service that Americans expect and deserve.

Even before this pandemic began, the post office and our postal workers played a critical role in our country, ensuring that folks across our Nation received essential packages and letters, including medication, food, supplies, ballots, and notes from loved ones.

And this importance only grew during the pandemic.

Now, unfortunately the Postal Service has faced serious financial challenges in recent years, even as postal workers serviced more locations. It has been burdened by, among other things, a requirement that no employer in private industry has, to prefund benefits for workers who, frankly, haven't even been born yet.

That is why this week I voted for the bipartisan Postal Service Reform Act. This bill makes some commonsense reforms to save the Postal Service billions of dollars, to have the backs of the terrific professionals who work for the Postal Service, to improve the service's performance, and to ensure that folks in my region and around our country can rely on the delivery of paychecks, prescriptions, tax returns, and more.

We have got to get this bill signed into law.

□ 0915

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF JOEL ''JOE'' STEVENSON

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

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life of Montezuma County commissioner, Joel ''Joe'' Stevenson. He will be remembered as a larger-than-life champion of rural Colorado who never wavered in his belief that the world needs more cowboys.

He was a rancher, a caring husband, a loving father, and a friend. Joe was a happy warrior, and his passion with a smile will continue to inspire me as I serve in Congress and generations to come. Joe devoted his life to the agriculture community where he served his neighbors as a brand inspector for the Colorado Department of Agriculture for 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, Joe's life of service has come to an end but his legacy will live on in Montezuma County and the Colorado agriculture community; and in his wife, Sheree; and his children, Colette, Chelsi, Mary Jo, Jodie, and Sam; and in his 7 grandchildren who affectionately called him ''Papa.''

Mr. Speaker, I take comfort knowing God's wraparound presence is surrounding Joe's family today and he has entered into the joy of his Lord. America needs more cowboys like my friend, Joe Stevenson, but I know that heaven just gained one.

GLOBAL RESPECT ACT

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 900, I call up the bill (H.R. 3485) to impose sanctions on foreign persons responsible for violations of internationally recognized human rights against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) individuals, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 900, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Foreign Affairs printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–30 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 3485

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Global Respect Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The dignity, freedom, and equality of all human beings are fundamental to a thriving global community.

(2) The rights to life, liberty, and security of the person, the right to privacy, and the right to freedom of expression and association are fundamental human rights.

(3) An alarming trend of violence directed at LGBTQI individuals around the world continues.

(4) Approximately one-third of all countries have laws criminalizing consensual same-sex relations, and many have enacted policies or laws that would further target LGBTQI individuals.

(5) Every year thousands of individuals around the world are targeted for harassment, attack, arrest, and murder on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

(6) Those who commit crimes against LGBTQI individuals often do so with impunity, and are not held accountable for their crimes.

(7) In many instances police, prison, military, and civilian government authorities have been directly complicit in abuses aimed at LGBTQI citizens, including arbitrary arrest, torture, and sexual abuse.

(8) Celebrations of LGBTQI individuals and communities, such as film festivals, Pride events, and demonstrations are often forced underground due to inaction on the part of, or harassment by, local law enforcement and government officials, in violation of freedoms of assembly and expression.

(9) Laws criminalizing consensual same-sex relations severely hinder access to HIV/AIDS treatment, information, and preventive measures for LGBTQI individuals and families.

(10) Many countries are making positive developments in the protection of the basic human rights of LGBTQI individuals.

SEC. 3. SANCTIONS ON INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AGAINST LGBTQI PEOPLE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and biannually thereafter, the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of each foreign person the President determines, based on credible information, including information obtained by other countries or by nongovernmental organizations that monitor violations of human rights—

(1) is responsible for or complicit in, with respect to persons based on actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex characteristics—

(A) cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment;

(B) prolonged detention without charges and trial;

(C) causing the disappearance of such persons by the abduction and clandestine detention of such persons; or

(D) other flagrant denial of the right to life, liberty, or the security of such persons; or

(2) acted as an agent of or on behalf of a foreign person in a matter relating to an activity described in paragraph (1).

(b) FORM; UPDATES; REMOVAL.—

(1) FORM.—The list required by subsection (a) shall be transmitted in unclassified form and published in the Federal Register, except that the President may include a foreign person in a classified, unpublished annex to such list if the President—

(A) determines that—

(i) it is vital for the national security interests of the United States to do so; and

(ii) the use of such annex, and the inclusion of such person in such annex, would not undermine the overall purpose of this section to publicly identify foreign persons engaging in the conduct described in subsection (a) in order to increase accountability for such conduct; and

(B) not later than 15 days before including such person in a classified annex, provides to the appropriate congressional committees notice of, and a justification for, including or continuing to include each foreign person in such annex despite the existence of any publicly available credible information indicating that each such foreign person engaged in an activity described in subsection (a).

(2) UPDATES.—The President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees an update of the list required by subsection (a) as new information becomes available.

(3) REMOVAL.—A foreign person may be removed from the list required by subsection (a) if the President determines and reports to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 15 days before the removal of such person from such list that—

(A) new, credible information is discovered confirming that such person did not in fact engage in the activity for which the person was included in such list;

(B) such person has been prosecuted appropriately for the activity in which such person engaged; or

(C) such person has credibly demonstrated a significant change in behavior, has paid an appropriate consequence for the activities in which such person engaged, and has credibly committed to not engage in an activity described in subsection (a).

(c) PUBLIC SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION.—The President shall issue public guidance, including through United States diplomatic and consular posts, setting forth the manner by which the names of foreign persons that may meet the criteria to be included on the list required by subsection (a) may be submitted to the Department of State for evaluation.

(d) REQUESTS FROM CHAIR AND RANKING MEMBER OF APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—

(1) CONSIDERATION OF INFORMATION.—In addition to the guidance issued pursuant to subsection (c), the President shall also consider information provided by the Chair or Ranking Member of each of the appropriate congressional committees in determining whether to include a foreign person in the list required by subsection (a).

(2) REQUESTS.—Not later than 120 days after receiving a written request from the Chair or Ranking Member of one of the appropriate congressional committees with respect to whether a foreign person meets the criteria for being included in the list required by subsection (a), the President shall transmit a response to such Chair or Ranking Member, as the case may be, with respect to the President's determination relating to such foreign person.

(3) REMOVAL.—If the President removes from the list required by subsection (a) a foreign person that had been included in such list pursuant to a request under paragraph (2), the President shall provide to the relevant Chair or Ranking Member of the appropriate congressional committees any information that contributed to such decision.

(4) FORM.—The President may transmit a response required by paragraph (2) or paragraph (3) in classified form if the President determines that it is necessary for the national security interests of the United States to do so.

(e) INADMISSIBILITY OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—

(1) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS AND ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES.—A foreign person on the list required by subsection (a), and each immediate family member of such person, is—

(A) inadmissible to the United States;

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

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

(2) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one such Secretaries) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to a foreign person on the list required by subsection (a) and to each immediate family member of such person regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is issued.

(B) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revocation under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) take effect immediately; and

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

(3) SENSE OF CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS.—It is the sense of Congress that the President should impose additional targeted sanctions with respect to foreign persons on the list required by subsection (a) to push for accountability for flagrant denials of the right to life, liberty, or the security of the person, through the use of designations and targeted sanctions provided for such conduct under other existing authorities.

(4) EXCEPTIONS.—

(A) EXCEPTION WITH RESPECT TO NATIONAL SECURITY.—This section shall not apply with respect to—

(i) activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.); or

(ii) any authorized intelligence or law enforcement activities of the United States.

(B) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not apply with respect to a person if admitting or paroling the person into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States or other applicable international obligations.

(5) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions or restrictions imposed with respect to a foreign person under this section if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees, not later than 15 days before such waiver is to take effect, that the waiver is vital to the national interest of the United States.

(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the President, acting through the Secretary of State, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on—

(1) the actions taken to carry out this section, including—

(A) the number of foreign persons added to or removed from the list required by subsection (a) during the year preceding each such report, the dates on which such persons were so added or removed, and the reasons for so adding or removing such persons; and

(B) an analysis that compares increases or decreases in the number of such persons added or removed year-over-year and the reasons therefor; and

(2) any efforts by the President to coordinate with the governments of other countries, as appropriate, to impose sanctions that are similar to the sanctions imposed under this section.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

(2) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER.—The term ''immediate family member'' has the meaning given such term for purposes of section 7031(c) of division K of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.

SEC. 4. DISCRIMINATION RELATED TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, OR SEX CHARACTERISTICS.

(a) TRACKING VIOLENCE OR CRIMINALIZATION RELATED TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY.—The Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor shall designate one or more Bureau-based senior officer or officers who shall be responsible for tracking violence, criminalization, and restrictions on the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms in foreign countries based on actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex characteristics.

(b) ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.—The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended—

(1) in section 116(d) (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d))—

(A) in paragraph (11)(C), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end;

(B) in paragraph (12)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(13) wherever applicable, information relating to violence or discrimination that affects fundamental freedoms, including widespread or systematic violation of the freedoms of expression, association, or assembly, of individuals in foreign countries that is based on actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex characteristics.''; and

(2) in section 502B(b) (22 U.S.C. 2304(b)), by inserting after the ninth sentence the following new sentence: ''Wherever applicable, such report shall also include information relating to violence or discrimination that affects the fundamental freedoms, including widespread or systematic violation of the freedoms of expression, association, or assembly, of individuals in foreign countries that is based on actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex characteristics.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the Chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs or their respective designees.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3485.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a very important day with a very important bill, and I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3485, the Global Respect Act, as amended, and introduced by my friend and great American, Congressman DAVID CICILLINE.

Mr. Speaker, we live in a country that espouses that all human beings are created equal, endowed with equal rights, no matter what we look like, how we pray, or where we come from.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights tells us, ''all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.'' The International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights states that, ''All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law.''

And our own Declaration of Independence famously says, ''We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.''

Mr. Speaker, the Global Respect Act brings us closer to realizing these treasured ideals.

Today, unfortunately, shamelessly, millions of people are living in fear. In countless countries, LGBTQI-plus people face punishment simply for being who they are. They are subject to brutal beatings, imprisoned for lifetimes,

tortured, hanged, and stoned. When human rights abuses are being committed, the United States of America must do its part to hold the perpetrators accountable. And that is why Congressman CICILLINE introduced H.R. 3485, the Global Respect Act.

This legislation is critical, straightforward, and overdue. It requires the President to identify foreign individuals responsible for these human rights violations against LGBTQI-plus people and to prevent them from entering the United States of America.

In addition, the Global Respect Act requires the State Department to designate at least one senior officer responsible for tracking violence, criminalization, and restrictions on the freedoms of LGBTQI-plus people abroad. This legislation also requires the Department of State to include information relating to violence or discrimination against LGBTQI-plus communities in its annual human rights reports.

Now, unfortunately, several of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle say they oppose the bill because they claim it is duplicative of Magnitsky sanctions. While Global Magnitsky is a landmark tool in the fight against human rights abuses, rarely has it been used by administrations to sanction those who persecute LGBTQI-plus persons. This bill simply builds on existing human rights-related authorities to ensure that human rights abusers are held accountable everywhere on this planet.

They also argue the language of the bill is overly broad when, in fact, the words they quibble with come directly from what has already been enacted in the United States Code, drawing word-from-word the definition of ''gross violation of human rights.''

There are critics out there who say this bill infringes on religious beliefs. I wholeheartedly, 1,000 percent, reject this notion. The Global Respect Act is about holding accountable individuals responsible for committing human rights abuses against LGBTQI-plus people; Individuals who commit the absolute worst crimes, such as murder, forced detentions, and disappearances of persons. This bill is clear in that it targets heinous acts, and does not authorize any action against an individual based solely upon religious belief.

Mr. Speaker, I can't thank Congressman DAVID CICILLINE enough for his work, for his commitment, for his dedication on presenting this legislation so that equality and human rights are protected. I also recognize the courageous LGBTQI-plus activists who are out there and who dared to stand up and claim their basic human rights in the face of violence, discrimination, persecution, simply for whom they love.

Mr. Speaker, I have a brother who had to stand up for who he is. He is a human being. And we should not allow any violations of human rights here in the United States or anyplace we know as planet Earth.

So when LGBTQI-plus people are murdered simply for existing, the world is watching. And the world is watching what we do. And the world is watching how we react to it. And the world is watching what we say, and what we stand for when we say we have value for human beings. That is what is at stake here.

This should not be a partisan issue. It has never been a partisan issue. This should be an issue about all human beings, protecting human beings, the human race, because when you break it down, we are all the same. And that is why I am heartened that this legislation is in fact bipartisan. And I am heartened and proud that this legislation passed out of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs by a voice vote. One of the proudest moments I have is introducing and being on this floor today as chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs to strongly support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, we all believe that all people have inherent dignity and possess equal human rights. We all reject violence directed at individuals on the basis of their race, religion, biological sex, or sexual orientation. The problem with this bill, however, is that it borrows language from two existing laws: the Global Magnitsky Act and the so-called Section 7031(c) sanctions, and then creates a new reporting mechanism that is not focused on the human rights of all, but rather the human rights of particular groups.

I don't see why we should focus on some human rights violations more than any others. Every person's human rights are of equal value and certain violations of those rights should not be subordinate to others.

Furthermore, the bill's broad language has the potential to sweep in nonviolent conduct and impose visa restrictions on individuals engaged in that conduct.

For example, it speaks about ''complicity'' and ''cruel treatment,'' vague terms. Is a parent overseas who rejects her minor child's wish for a sex change operation complicit in cruelty? Is the Pope engaged in ''degrading treatment'' when he expresses opposition to same-sex marriage based on the tenets of his religious faith?

Mr. Speaker, there are no safeguards in the bill that address these situations. When free speech, religious freedom, and parental rights' protections were proposed to be added to the bill, the Democrats balked and voted against it. They preach tolerance until they are asked to vote on it.

Regardless of the author's intent, which I think is good, there are people that will use the bill to target their political and ideological opponents in the culture wars. The bill's author will say that there should be no problem since it just uses the very same language as other human rights statutes, but those existing provisions already address and punish the conduct this bill targets.

□ 0930

So, the real question is, why is this bill so necessary? In the committee report, Democrats acknowledge the bill is redundant. But in search of some—any, perhaps—rationale, they claim that not enough sanctions have been rolled out that cover crimes committed against LGBT-identifying individuals. That is simply not true.

We know, for example, under the Trump administration, groups and individuals from Chechnya were sanctioned under Global Magnitsky for human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings and the torture of LGBT-identifying individuals.

The former Gambian President was also sanctioned after having rounded up people based on sexual orientation and after making shocking statements against LGBT-identifying individuals. These sanctions, as I said, were imposed under the Trump administration, but even more have been imposed, using the Global Magnitsky Act, under President Biden.

We know, based on a recent Global Magnitsky report to Congress that came out a few weeks ago, individuals last year in places like Cuba, Uganda, and even Bangladesh have been sanctioned, and all are associated with groups or conduct targeting LGBT-identifying individuals.

So, this bill is clearly unnecessary. It reflects and represents the administration's aggressive attempts to push the envelope regarding culture war issues at every possible juncture, not only domestically but abroad.

That is distracting and requires diplomats to devote time and resources to culture war issues at the expense of attention paid to China, Russia, Iran, the quagmire in Afghanistan, and the crisis at our southern border.

It is disappointing that as Ukraine is on the verge of being invaded by Russia, as North Korea continues to conduct ballistic missile tests, as illegal aliens stream through our southern border—some on our terror watch list—the majority has decided now is the time to bring this bill forward.

The State Department agrees. It has reviewed the Global Respect Act and recommended extensive changes, signaling it, too, sees this bill as superfluous, potentially misguided, and definitely duplicative. Other groups have said much the same, including The Heritage Foundation, the Center for Family and Human Rights, Concerned Women for America, and the Family Research Council.

Although I agree with the sentiment that human rights violations of any kind are deplorable and despicable, the devil is really in the details on this bill. We oppose this bill for the reasons I have stated.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I just want to state that the notion that this bill is not supported by the administration is just blatantly false.

Just last week, the Biden administration released a Statement of Administration Policy in full support of the bill and noted the urgent need to address threats to the human rights of LGBTQI-plus, not just abroad but right here in the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), the author of this bill.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise in support of H.R. 3485. I want to begin by expressing my profound gratitude to Chairman MEEKS for his consistent, passionate, and powerful support of this bill and of the LGBTQI community broadly. He has been such a champion for our community. We would not be here today on this floor without his support, and we are grateful for that.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to recognize Congressman BRIAN FITZPATRICK, Senator SHAHEEN, and Senator PORTMAN for their partnership and leadership in making this legislation bipartisan and bicameral.

Of course, I want to recognize and thank President Biden for his incredible commitment to LGBTQI equality here at home and around the world.

With today's vote, the U.S. House will send a strong message across the world that every member of the LGBTQI community deserves to live with dignity and free from violence, unlawful detention, torture, and other forms of brutality.

H.R. 3485, the Global Respect Act, builds on existing sanction authorities by requiring the President to deny visas to foreign nationals who commit gross human rights violations against members of the LGBTQI community. Let me be clear. This bill protects LGBTQI people from murder, torture, and other forms of violence.

If you reject this proposal, you are saying people like me can be murdered and tortured with no consequence. Whether that is your intention or not, that is the impact of your vote.

In past years, we have seen a dangerous increase in violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people and their families.

So, when my colleague on the other side of the aisle says, ''What is the need for this?'' tell that to the victims who are being tortured, detained, and murdered because of who they are.

In too many places, violence against this community is pervasive and even sanctioned or directed by government officials.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that ''all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.'' As with any form of social or legal marginalization, whether based on sex, race, religion, ethnicity, or other status, the denial of human rights of LGBTQI people is not only wrong but negatively affects health outcomes, social stability, the rule of law, and economic potential.

This bill sends a signal to not just the abusers but also signals to the victims and survivors that the United States stands with them, as we have throughout the course of human history, in standing up for human rights.

Victims like Camila Diaz Cordova, a 29-year-old transgender woman from El Salvador who was arrested, beaten, and thrown from a moving vehicle after being deported from the United States—she died several days later; or the young gay man who fled from Sudan to Egypt after threats of public outing and violence, only to experience kidnapping and further stigmatization and violence in his new home; or I.J., a victim of Ramzan Kadyrov's systematic rounding up and torture of men and women thought to be gay in Chechnya.

In recounting the attack, I.J. said: ''They threw me to the floor and beat me. They beat my chest and my face with their feet, and they hit my head against the floor. One of them said: 'Do not beat him until the shock stage. At that point, he will stop feeling pain. We don't need that.' They addressed me with female pronouns and demanded that I tell them the names of other gay people I knew. They threatened to kill me if I didn't.''

In public reports, we heard of ISIS officials throwing gay men off rooftops and then stoning them to death.

These are just some examples of the many, many stories.

The Global Respect Act is simple. It is straightforward. It gives the executive branch greater tools to punish those who murder and torture members of the LGBTQI community.

I want to take a quick moment to tell you what this bill does not do. It doesn't duplicate existing rights legislation such as the Global Magnitsky Act because Global Magnitsky is obviously a very important tool for human rights, but it is voluntary. It has only been used once for LGBTQI human rights violations, despite many documented cases.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. CICILLINE. The Global Respect Act is different because it requires sanctions if a foreign national commits gross human rights violations against LGBTQI people.

It doesn't have overly broad language. As the chairman said, it has language that comes from 22 U.S.C. 2304. It doesn't create any new definitions. It has the definition in existing law of what gross human rights violation is.

It doesn't prevent speech or religious beliefs. This bill targets conduct and actions. The Global Magnitsky has never, nor will this bill ever, be used to impede anyone's right to say or believe anything. It is their actions, the gross human rights violations, that are at issue.

My friend on the other side of the aisle said it is cancel culture. When did preventing murder, torture, and violence, and standing up for human rights, become cancel culture?

We have a long tradition in this country of doing this all around the world. The Global Respect Act honors that history, that responsibility that we have as a world superpower to continue to protect and stand up for human rights in the face of unspeakable human violence.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I end where I began, with enormous gratitude to our extraordinary chairman for his leadership on this issue.

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's passion, and I support his support of condemning and sanctioning these terrible acts against the LGBT community.

I just wanted to let the Speaker know, in the newest Global Magnitsky Act report, which was just released a few weeks ago and covers 2021, sanctions were imposed on Cuban police; in Uganda, the Chief of the Military Intelligence; also in Bangladesh, the Rapid Action Battalion.

All of these were associated with LGBT causes, which means this act is being used to sanction those who commit acts of violence of any kind against people of the LGBT community. I just wanted to make sure that the gentleman is aware of that. The State Department is already reporting and already doing this, and it is being done.

Though I support everything that he is stating here, it is already being done. In the interest of good legislation, we don't want to overburden our bureaucrats and people that are working on these issues. Also, reporting, they have indicated that additional reporting requirements only take more time out of the organization.

I do appreciate the messaging from the gentleman from Rhode Island. It is very important that we signal to the world that we condemn acts against the LGBT community. The problem is, we already have this, and we already have the ability and two tools that are very effective and used internationally to condemn these acts.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, let me just say this real quick. I don't mind burdening anyone if it is going to save somebody's life. There are certain burdens that we have to carry, and this is one of them.

Mr. Speaker, I, with pride, yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS), a strong fighter for human rights.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Global Respect Act that is being led by my friend, Mr. CICILLINE. I thank him for his passion and his leadership in the committee on this issue.

Since the Supreme Court's landmark decision legalizing same-sex marriage in 2015, we have sought out domestic opportunities to ensure that individuals' basic rights are not infringed upon simply because of their sexual orientation. We have to make more progress not just here at home but around the world, where we take leadership on this issue.

Throughout the last century, we have stood for human rights, and in 2016, I was proud to support the Global Magnitsky Act, which imposed certain restrictions, as you have heard mentioned already. Magnitsky, however, did not go far enough to protect the LGBTQ-plus community.

In at least 42 countries, there remain legal barriers to freedom of expression on sexual orientation and gender identity. In at least 51 countries, there are specific laws and policies against the formation, establishment, or registration of NGOs working on sexual orientation issues. Nor has Magnitsky dissuaded the persecution of LGBTQI communities whose rights continue to be violated.

That is why I was grateful to have a part in working on this Global Respect Act legislation because it will impose needed visa sanctions on foreign people responsible for such actions.

My own legislation, the GLOBE Act, I think would take a step further to assert U.S. global leadership in this area and provide the administration with additional tools to carry out those things established in this landmark legislation. Some of those would be: ensuring that foreign assistance and global health programs don't discriminate against LGBTQ-plus populations, and also ensuring fair access to asylum for LGBTQ people.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and the sponsor, and I urge everyone to vote for this much-needed and very important bill.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING).

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Global Respect Act, including my amendment to ensure accountability for torture.

As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I am proud to work with my colleagues, Chairman MEEKS and Congressman CICILLINE, to protect and defend human rights and uphold our values around the world.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan bill would require the President to identify and impose visa sanctions on foreign individuals responsible for human rights violations against LGBTQ-plus people.

My amendment would direct sanctions against those responsible for one of the most horrific acts of violence: torture. No one should face violence because of who they are or who they love.

□ 0945

We must hold those responsible for gross violations of human rights accountable no matter what. This important legislation ensures that the United States continues to protect the human rights of all people, including LGBTQ people targeted by some of the world's worst and most oppressive regimes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Global Respect Act.

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

Mr. MEEKS. I am prepared to close, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Speaker, again, I support the underlying idea behind the bill, and I really appreciate the passion of the sponsor and those speaking out on behalf of it and protecting the human rights of all individuals living abroad and holding violators accountable. But as I have said, we have a strong difference of opinion about whether a bill that is duplicative of current law is necessary.

I think the Global Respect Act, at the moment, the way it is drafted is counterproductive insofar as it would create a separate regime aimed at protecting human rights of some rather than human rights of all. And I fear it could be used to target the left's political opponents in the culture wars.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let me start by commending and thanking the Biden administration for its strong support in moving this legislation.

What is noted in his support is that legislation like this is needed at a time especially when countries are undertaking steps to further marginalize or harm LGBTQ-plus community members and that the administration looks forward to working with Congress on what I know will be a bipartisan vote.

I also happen to agree with President Biden and echo his statement that in a time when a global rise in authoritarianism and hate persists that it is critical that we send a strong message to the world that the United States of America, the world's greatest democracy—that the United States of America, who leads with its values—that the United States of America can speak up and speak out striving to be a more perfect Union, and that the United States of America can lead the world to say that we are going to stop the persecution of human beings simply for who they are.

This is the year 2022, Mr. Speaker. I would think by now we would have learned that our voices should never be shut when we see violations of human rights. One of the things that I pledged when I became chair of this committee was that human rights would be on the front burner because if we can't come together no matter what party we are in, no matter what religion we have, no matter what ethnicity we have, and no matter where we come from on this planet, if we can't come together and say that we are going to stand up, speak out, and stop where individuals are being persecuted and prosecuted—murdered—that is the least that we can do.

I don't care how difficult it is. I don't care if it puts a burden on the administration to do it because those are our values, that is what should take precedence.

I have seen too much right here in the United States—individuals just walking down the street holding hands with whom they love, and someone walks up and does something horrific to them.

We have had to pass these bills and laws in our country so that they can live their life. If we see it happening to anyone else, then we have got to make sure that voice is heard and stop individuals who are persecuting and prosecuting people from anyplace else on this planet from coming to this country.

Send a message. Don't send it once, send it twice. If it takes three or four times, then so be it. That is what this is all about. The camera of history is recording this, looking to see what we do and what we say.

How do we react to a human tragedy?

Generations yet unborn will be saying: What did the United States Congress do when they knew?

No one denies what is taking place all over the world when it comes to LGBTQI-plus individuals. Nobody denies that they are being killed. No one denies that they are being tortured. Nobody denies that they are treated in an inhumane way. That is not being denied.

So as long as it exists, we should use every tool available to make sure that we wipe it off the planet Earth, and that is what DAVID CICILLINE, this great Congressman, intended when he offered this bill.

This should be an historic moment and a proud moment for the United States Congress to say: We have stood up and led the world to stop human rights violations to people just like us, human beings.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House and the Committee on Homeland Security, and as Chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, and a member of the Equality Caucus, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3485, the Global Respect Act of 2021.

I strongly support H.R. 3485 the Global Respect Act, which would mandate the listing of, and visa restrictions on foreign persons responsible for or complicit in human rights violations against lesbian, gay, bisexual,

transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI+) persons.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people around the world continue to face discrimination, violence, and bigotry.

Sixty-eight countries criminalize same-sex sexual relations, which means that more than one-third of United Nations Member States criminalize consenting, adult, same-sex sexual relations.

In up to nine countries, same-sex sexual relations may be punishable by death, and so-called anti-LGBTQ+ "propaganda" laws inhibit LGBTQ+ advocacy in at least three countries.

While many countries have made tremendous strides in embracing equality for LGBTQI+ community members, other countries remain stagnant or, worse, are undertaking steps to further marginalize or harm LGBTQI+ community members.

That is why I support H.R. 3485, a bi-partisan bill, which requires the Administration to provide Congress with a list of foreign individuals found responsible for human rights violations against LGBTQI+ persons abroad, and equally important, mandates that individuals included on this list are ineligible for visas to, or entry into, the United States.

The U.S. Department of State's annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices has documented hostility toward LGBTQ+ citizens in every region of the world.

These violations include murder, rape, torture, death threats, extortion, imprisonment, and loss of employment and access to health care, as well as restrictions on freedoms of assembly, press, and speech.

The Global Respect Act would provide a means to prevent individuals who violate the human rights of LGBTQ+ people from entry into the United States.

The Global Respect Act also would require the Executive Branch to biannually send Congress a list of foreign persons responsible for, complicit in, or who have incited extrajudicial killing, torture, or other gross violations of human rights based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

As I stated, there is teeth in the legislation because it requires the denial or revocation of visas to individuals placed on the list, with waivers only for national security or to allow attendance at the United Nations;

Finally, the legislation requires the annual State Department Report on Human Rights to include a section on LGBTQ+ international human rights, as well as an annual report to Congress on the status of the law's effectiveness; and requires the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor to designate a staffer responsible for tracking violence, criminalization, and restrictions on the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms in foreign countries based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 3485, the Global Respect Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Each further amendment printed in part A of House Report 117–241 not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 900, shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before the question is put thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It shall be in order at any time after debate for the chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part A of House Report 117–241, not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC OFFERED BY MR. CICILLINE OF RHODE ISLAND

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 900, I offer the amendments en bloc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc consisting of amendment Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, printed in part A of House Report 117–241, offered by Mr. CICILLINE of Rhode Island:

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. CRIST OF FLORIDA

Page 9, after line 21, insert the following:

(__) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A covered individual shall not be subject to sanctions under this section if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees, in accordance with clause (ii), that such individual has a reasonable fear of persecution based on—

(I) actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex characteristics;

(II) race, religion, or nationality; or

(III) political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

(ii) DETERMINATION AND CERTIFICATION.—A certification under clause (i) shall be made not later than 30 days after the date of the determination required by such clause. Any proceedings relating to such determination shall not be publicly available.

(iii) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "covered individual" means an individual who is an immediate family member of foreign person on the list required by subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. ___. STUDY REQUIRED.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a report that comprises of sections from each regional bureau detailing past risks to LGBTQI individuals, with a summary on the differences between regions with respect to such risks.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. HARDER OF CALIFORNIA

Page 11, after line 17, insert the following:

(____) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to allow the imposition of sanctions with respect to, or otherwise authorize any other action against, any foreign person based solely upon religious belief.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. MANNING OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 3, line 15, insert "torture or" before "cruel".

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. PORTER OF CALIFORNIA

Page 10, after line 24, insert the following:

(__) FORM; PUBLICATION.—The report required by subsection (f) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex. The unclassified portion of such report shall be published on a publicly available website of the Department of State.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MS. WILLIAMS OF GEORGIA

Page 10, after line 24, insert the following:

(__) REPORT ON PREVENTION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing steps the Department can take to improve coordination with foreign governments, civil society groups, and the private sector, to prevent the commission of the human rights violations described in section 3(a)(1) against persons based on actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex characteristics.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 900, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

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

Before I address the en bloc amendments, I just want to respond quickly to a claim that has been made again on this floor that was made in the Rules Committee by my friend on the other side of the aisle that the Magnitsky Act has already adequately covered LGBTQI human rights violations. I am going to say it one more time: That is simply, factually incorrect.

All of the cases that my friend cited, Mr. Speaker, do not involve LGBTQI people, save one. There is one specific LGBTQI case in which sanctions were imposed in 2019 against the Chechen leader for kidnapping, torturing, and killing members of the LGBTQI community.

The cases she makes reference to in Bangladesh, in Cuba, and in Uganda involve judicial corruption, and they involve a government crackdown on democracy, but they don't involve individuals who were targeted or brutalized because they were members of the LGBTQI community.

So there is, in fact, not sufficient use of Magnitsky. That is what the Global Respect Act will fix. It will make visa sanctions against such individuals a mandatory requirement.

So this idea of pulling other human rights cases and saying, Isn't this enough?

It is not. This is a growing, serious, and deadly problem.

Mr. Speaker, I move these amendments which, taken together, both

strengthen the bill and make a strong statement that the United States stands with the LGBTQI community around the world.

This package of amendments clarifies that torture is a part of the definition of a human rights violation. This definition, which we have used since the passage of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, makes it clear that it is actions—torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment—that lead to sanctions.

These amendments firmly state that the value of religious freedom is protected. The United States has long been a leader of protecting freedom of religion, and our foreign policy must uphold that tradition. The Harder amendment within the en bloc makes it clear that no one—I repeat, no one—will be sanctioned due to their religious beliefs; instead, only those who commit egregious acts of violence—torture, enforced disappearances, or extrajudicial killings—will be denied entry to the United States.

Despite what some of my colleagues may say, religious freedom is not in conflict with the promotion of global LGBTQI rights. This amendment acknowledges this truth and upholds the rights of all people regardless of their religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex characteristics to be protected from violence and brutality.

These amendments will also provide the Biden-Harris administration with additional tools to continue its historic work to build the international coalition of countries protecting LGBTQI people. It is important that we stand with countries around the world, including those like Botswana, which legalized same-sex relationships in 2019, to strengthen equality around the globe.

With today's vote, the U.S. House will send a strong message around the world that every member of the LGBTQI community deserves to live with dignity and free from violence, unlawful detention, torture, and other forms of brutality.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, just to respond a little bit to the sponsor, and, again, I can't say enough that we support and echo the sentiments of protecting the rights of the LGBT community around the world and at home.

But this bill actually mirrors the Global Magnitsky Act, and the language is the same. So it is kind of hard to argue we should just have another set of standards and require even more reporting from a State Department that is overwhelmed by issues around the world when we already have this.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at these instances, the State Department doesn't disclose necessarily what the nature of it is because of the confidentiality, but if you actually go into a Google search and look at the reporting in each of these countries, they are all based on conduct against people with LGBT leanings, and that is why the act was used. The State Department preserves confidentiality.

□ 1000

So in the end, yes, we are using this act right now, today, to condemn and to sanction this activity against the LGBTQ communities around the world. So I oppose the en bloc of amendments. While some of the amendments are well-intentioned, they are ultimately duplicative and unnecessary, again, just like the underlying act. They require the Department of State to do what it is already doing in practice.

For example, the Gottheimer amendment No. 2 requires a study examining risks to LGBTQI individuals. The State Department publishes its annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices each year, including this data, and they just provided another report recently.

Human rights officers who are stationed at our embassies and consulates around the world meet routinely with local activists and local officials to gain this information. They talk to individuals on the ground to compile these reports, which are detailed and comprehensive. Each regional bureau in the Department is involved in this process. This amendment, therefore, calls for the Department to do what it is already doing, and is burdensome on the Foreign Service officers and career officials.

Other amendments, like the Harder amendment No. 7, also very well-intentioned and also messaging in a very positive way, show that the Democrats know they have overreached on the bill. The Harder amendment prevents sanctions against any individual based solely upon religious belief.

I agree with this sentiment, but at markup, Democrats rejected a very similar religious freedom and free speech amendment offered by Representative SCOTT PERRY. The rationale was: Well, this bill just isn't about that. Well, it seems one of their colleagues disagrees.

While I appreciate the Democrats are willing to acknowledge some of the flaws in the bill, the Harder amendment is also insufficient. The amendment speaks only of religious belief. It does not speak to situations in which religious adherents manifest or express their beliefs in daily life.

So under Representative HARDER's amendment, a person who expresses belief in the traditional family, or in conventional human biology, could still be sanctioned because sanctions would not be based on beliefs but, rather, on actions.

This amendment is not as robust as the measure that Representative PERRY put forward at markup, and we have no choice but to oppose it.

This en bloc does not contain amendments that would enhance the legislation, in our opinion. Instead, these amendments seek to add safeguards to a bill that, as I have explained, is duplicative, unnecessary, and even dangerous insofar as it can be used by the left to target political opponents in the international culture wars.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. WILLIAMS).

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my amendment to proactively prevent human rights abuses against LGBTQI individuals.

As the Congresswoman representing the LGBTQI capital of the South, this amendment is just another way that my district is leading the way to achieve human rights and equity for all. Decades of advocacy, from Atlanta's first gay pride march in 1971, to annual events like Black Pride and Southern Fried Queer Pride have made Atlanta the city ''too busy to hate.''

Atlanta gets a perfect score from the Human Rights Campaign, and the community that the Black and LGBTQ-plus activists have created in Atlanta is the kind of world that we want everywhere. At home, we have a saying, ''Atlanta influences everything,'' and my amendment is designed to do just that by extending human rights protections beyond my city and our Nation's borders.

With my amendment, the State Department will study how it can better coordinate internationally to prevent international human rights abuses based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics before those abuses occur. This will create a better world for everyone no matter where they live, who they love, or how they identify.

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close.

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield back balance of my time.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I just want to respond quickly to two things before I close. The first is, again, the Global Respect Act, like Magnitsky, does not punish and cannot be invoked for speech. It is very clear. It has never been used in that way, and it specifically targets conduct. But out of an abundance of caution, to reassure our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Mr. HARDER offers an amendment that makes that explicit, that says that no one will be sanctioned due to their religious beliefs. Instead, only those who commit egregious acts of violence, including: torture, enforced disappearance, or extrajudicial killings will be denied entry into the United States.

This notion of like, well, we were concerned about this religion issue, but when it is explicitly addressed because it is offered by a Democrat through the

amendment process and not a Republican, it doesn't satisfy my friends on the other side of the aisle. It is very disappointing; very disappointing.

This Global Respect Act legislation is designed to address a real problem, and I will just say one last time, in section 3 of the bill, the language in the bill includes gross violations of internationally recognized human rights as codified in 22 U.S.C. 2304. What is that? Not your view on marriage, not whether you like someone. It is defined as: ''. . . torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, prolonged detention without charges and trial, causing the disappearance of persons by the abduction and clandestine detention of those persons, and other flagrant denial of the right to life, liberty, or the security of person.''

This is a well-established definition for gross human rights violations. This bill simply says, if you engage in that kind of behavior, you do not have a right to enter the United States of America. We will deny you a visa because we stand for human rights.

So I urge my colleagues to support the en bloc amendment, support this bill, be proud today that the United States is standing again for the protection of human rights of all people here in the United States, and around the world.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DELBENE). Pursuant to House Resolution 900, the previous question is ordered on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

The question is on the amendments en bloc.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 223, nays 207, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 42]

YEAS—223

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown (MD)
Brown (OH)
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—207

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kinzinger
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—3

Calvert
Murphy (NC)
Salazar

□ 1052

Mr. KELLER changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the en bloc amendments were agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aguilar (Correa)
Amodei (Balderson)
Baird (Bucshon)
Bass (Takano)
Bera (Correa)
Bergman (Stauber)
Bowman (Jeffries)
Boyle, Brendan F. (Beyer)
Brooks (Moore (AL))
Brownley (Meng)
Clarke (NY) (Kelly (IL))
Cohen (Beyer)
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)
Cuellar (Correa)
DeSaulnier (Raskin)
Doggett (Raskin)
Dunn (Joyce (PA))
Fallon (Ellzey)
Frankel, Lois (Meng)
Fulcher (Simpson)
Garamendi (Correa)
Gimenez (Cammack)
Gohmert (Weber (TX))
Gonzalez (OH) (Balderson)
Gonzalez, Vicente (Correa)
Gosar (Gaetz)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hagedorn (Carl)
Huffman (Gomez)
Issa (Garcia (CA))
Johnson (SD) (Bice (OK))
Kahele (Case)
Keating (Cicilline)
Kelly (PA) (Balderson)
Khanna (Gomez)
Kinzinger (Rice (SC))
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Kuster (Bonamici)
Larson (CT) (Cicilline)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lofgren (Jeffries)
Loudermilk (Fleischmann)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Lucas (Mullin)
Malinowski (Pallone)
McEachin (Wexton)
Moore (WI) (Raskin)
Napolitano (Correa)
Omar (García (IL))
Payne (Pallone)
Pingree (Bonamici)
Porter (Wexton)
Reed (McHenry)
Roybal-Allard (Correa)
Ruiz (Correa)
Ruppersberger (Beyer)
Rush (Kaptur)
Schneider (Kelly (IL))
Sewell (Cicilline)
Sires (Pallone)
Soto (Wasserman Schultz)
Strickland (Takano)
Suozzi (Raskin)
Trone (Beyer)
Vargas (Correa)
Waters (Jeffries)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Cicilline)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

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

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 227, nays 206, not voting 0, as follows:

[Roll No. 43]

YEAS—227

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown (MD)
Brown (OH)
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—206

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

□ 1111

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aguilar (Correa)
Amodei (Balderson)
Baird (Bucshon)
Bass (Takano)
Bera (Correa)
Bergman (Stauber)
Bowman (Jeffries)
Boyle, Brendan F. (Beyer)
Brooks (Moore (AL))
Brownley (Meng)
Calvert (Garcia (CA))
Clarke (NY) (Kelly (IL))
Cohen (Beyer)
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)
Cuellar (Correa)
DeSaulnier (Raskin)
Doggett (Raskin)
Dunn (Joyce (PA))
Fallon (Ellzey)
Frankel, Lois (Meng)
Fulcher (Simpson)
Garamendi (Correa)
Gimenez (Cammack)
Gohmert (Weber (TX))
Gonzalez (OH) (Balderson)
Gonzalez, Vicente (Correa)
Gosar (Gaetz)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hagedorn (Carl)
Huffman (Gomez)
Issa (Garcia (CA))
Johnson (SD) (Bice (OK))
Kahele (Case)
Keating (Cicilline)
Kelly (PA) (Balderson)
Khanna (Gomez)
Kinzinger (Rice (SC))
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Kuster (Bonamici)
Larson (CT) (Cicilline)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lofgren (Jeffries)
Loudermilk (Fleischmann)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Lucas (Mullin)
Malinowski (Pallone)
McEachin (Wexton)
Moore (WI) (Raskin)
Napolitano (Correa)
Omar (García (IL))
Payne (Pallone)
Pingree (Bonamici)
Porter (Wexton)
Reed (McHenry)
Roybal-Allard (Correa)
Ruiz (Correa)
Ruppersberger (Beyer)
Rush (Kaptur)
Salazar (Kim (CA))
Schneider (Kelly (IL))
Sewell (Cicilline)
Sires (Pallone)
Soto (Wasserman Schultz)
Strickland (Takano)
Suozzi (Raskin)
Trone (Beyer)
Vargas (Correa)
Waters (Jeffries)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Cicilline)

ATANASIO TAITANO PEREZ POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TONKO). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3539) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 223 West Chalan Santo Papa in Hagatna, Guam, as the ''Atanasio Taitano Perez Post Office'', on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 417, nays 1, answered ''present'' 2, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 44]

YEAS—417

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brooks
Brown (MD)
Brown (OH)
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar

Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Zeldin

NAYS—1

Massie

PRESENT—2

Boebert
Roy

NOT VOTING—13

Brady
Curtis
Doyle, Michael F.
Gonzalez (OH)
Harris
Himes
Jackson
Murphy (FL)
Nehls
Norman
Palazzo
Yarmuth
Young

□ 1133

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aguilar (Correa)
Amodei (Balderson)
Baird (Bucshon)
Bass (Takano)
Bera (Correa)
Bergman (Stauber)
Bowman (Jeffries)
Boyle, Brendan F. (Beyer)
Brooks (Moore (AL))
Brownley (Meng)
Calvert (Garcia (CA))
Clarke (NY) (Kelly (IL))
Cohen (Beyer)
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)
Cuellar (Correa)
DeSaulnier (Raskin)
Doggett (Raskin)
Dunn (Joyce (PA))
Fallon (Ellzey)
Frankel, Lois (Meng)
Fulcher (Simpson)
Garamendi (Correa)
Gimenez (Cammack)
Gohmert (Weber (TX))
Gonzalez, Vicente (Correa)
Gosar (Gaetz)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hagedorn (Carl)
Huffman (Gomez)
Issa (Garcia (CA))
Johnson (SD) (Bice (OK))
Kahele (Case)
Keating (Cicilline)
Kelly (PA) (Balderson)
Khanna (Gomez)
Kinzinger (Rice (SC))
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Kuster (Bonamici)
Larson (CT) (Cicilline)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lofgren (Jeffries)
Loudermilk (Fleischmann)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Lucas (Mullin)
Malinowski (Pallone)
McEachin (Wexton)
Moore (WI) (Raskin)
Napolitano (Correa)
Omar (García (IL))
Payne (Pallone)
Pingree (Bonamici)
Porter (Wexton)
Reed (McHenry)
Roybal-Allard (Correa)
Ruiz (Correa)
Ruppersberger (Beyer)
Rush (Kaptur)
Salazar (Kim (CA))
Schneider (Kelly (IL))
Sewell (Cicilline)
Sires (Pallone)
Soto (Wasserman Schultz)
Strickland (Takano)
Suozzi (Raskin)
Trone (Beyer)
Vargas (Correa)
Waters (Jeffries)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Cicilline)

LYNN C. WOOLSEY POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2842) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 4th Street in Petaluma, California, as the ''Lynn C. Woolsey Post Office Building,'' on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 245, nays 167, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 45]

YEAS—245

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown (MD)
Brown (OH)
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Steel
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Walberg
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Young

NAYS—167

Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brooks
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher

Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Huizenga
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Mace
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McKinley
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Newhouse
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Rutherford
Scalise
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Van Drew
Wagner
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Zeldin

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Roy

NOT VOTING—21

Brady
Buchanan
Burgess
Castor (FL)
Diaz-Balart
Doyle, Michael F.
García (IL)
Gonzalez (OH)
Green (TN)
Himes
Jackson
Kinzinger
Lamborn
Luetkemeyer
Murphy (FL)
Nehls
Norman
Palazzo
Rogers (AL)
Van Duyne
Yarmuth

□ 1152

Messrs. TONY GONZALES of Texas, COMER, and GIMENEZ changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 44 and 45 on February 9, 2022. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall Nos. 44 and 45.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aguilar (Correa)
Amodei (Balderson)
Baird (Bucshon)
Bass (Takano)
Bera (Correa)
Bergman (Stauber)
Bowman (Jeffries)
Boyle, Brendan F. (Beyer)
Brooks (Moore (AL))
Brownley (Meng)
Calvert (Garcia (CA))
Clarke (NY) (Kelly (IL))
Cohen (Beyer)
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)
Cuellar (Correa)
DeSaulnier (Raskin)
Doggett (Raskin)
Dunn (Joyce (PA))
Fallon (Ellzey)
Frankel, Lois (Meng)
Fulcher (Simpson)
Garamendi (Correa)
Gimenez (Cammack)
Gohmert (Weber (TX))
Gonzalez, Vicente (Correa)
Gosar (Gaetz)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hagedorn (Carl)
Huffman (Gomez)
Issa (Garcia (CA))
Johnson (SD) (Bice (OK))
Kahele (Case)
Keating (Cicilline)
Kelly (PA) (Balderson)
Khanna (Gomez)
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Kuster (Bonamici)
Larson (CT) (Cicilline)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lofgren (Jeffries)
Loudermilk (Fleischmann)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Lucas (Mullin)
Malinowski (Pallone)
McEachin (Wexton)
Moore (WI) (Raskin)
Napolitano (Correa)
Omar (García (IL))
Payne (Pallone)
Pingree (Bonamici)
Porter (Wexton)
Reed (McHenry)
Roybal-Allard (Correa)
Ruiz (Correa)
Ruppersberger (Beyer)
Rush (Kaptur)
Salazar (Kim (CA))
Schneider (Kelly (IL))
Sewell (Cicilline)
Sires (Pallone)
Soto (Wasserman Schultz)
Strickland (Takano)
Suozzi (Raskin)
Trone (Beyer)
Vargas (Correa)
Waters (Jeffries)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Cicilline)

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1440

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 1440.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Louisiana). The gentlewoman's request is accepted.

SUPPORT AMERICAN ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

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

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, investing in innovation is vital to strengthening America's economic and national security. That is why I supported the America COMPETES Act of 2022, which makes a historic investment in American technology and innovation.

This bipartisan bill addresses 21st century challenges by turbocharging the domestic production of semiconductors, increasing the manufacturing workforce, and investing in STEM education. I am proud that my amendment, which creates partnerships with local industries to tailor STEM education to local economic needs, was included in the House version of the bill.

This amendment will broaden the scope of STEM education and offer new opportunities in rural communities like much of my district. With transformative investments in some of Illinois' biggest industries, like manufacturing, education, energy, and biotechnology, the America COMPETES Act will strengthen the STEM pipeline in my district and across the country.

I am proud of this bipartisan effort to support American economic competitiveness and urge my Senate colleagues to act quickly to send this legislation to the President's desk.

FENTANYL CRISIS

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, we surpassed 100,000 overdose deaths this year, a 28 percent increase. The amount of fentanyl seized at our southern border—seized—is over 100 million pills and 11,000 pounds. Now, as a physician who has administered fentanyl, this is enough to kill hundreds of millions of Americans. The price of heroin is now down to $20 a dose; the price of fentanyl down to $2.

One stunning supply chain success this administration has under its belt is the fentanyl supply chain across our southern border. One place this administration has successfully fought inflation is in lowering the price of illegal opioids on our streets.

The latest effort by this administration to promote drug use is now to spend $30 million to supply clean crack-smoking pipes to addicts.

Mr. Speaker, just say no.

□ 1200

ACTING ON HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SYRIA

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

Ms. NEWMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because there is a humanitarian crisis in Syria right now. For the past 2 years, there have been tens of thousands of Syrians in the Rukban settlement suffering from not only starvation but a lack of medical care.

The last remaining UNICEF clinic in this encampment closed in March 2020, right at the onset of the global pandemic. Since then, thousands in the camp have tested positive but have nowhere to quarantine. They don't have access to vaccines. They don't have access to medical care. They do not have access to clean water.

With Russia and the Assad regimes preventing aid from reaching the camp, I am calling on the U.S. to implore immediate action to intervene and help.

We have a fundamental obligation to save thousands of Syrian lives.

CONGRATULATING SHARON HUGHES FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and thank Sharon Hughes for her 20 years of service to the Eighth District of Ohio.

Sharon was born in Marion, Ohio, and attended Bowling Green State University. She worked for Congressman John Boehner from 2002 to 2016, and she has been a dedicated staff member in my office since 2016. She served as a caseworker and office manager, and also directed the military academy nomination process with excellence, and the Congressional Art Competition with excellence as well.

Outside of her congressional work, she also served in several leadership roles for the Butler Philharmonic Orchestra.

During her 20 years of service to the Eighth District of Ohio, Sharon has made a difference in the lives of countless constituents, including assisting in

securing Federal benefits; solving tax return problems; and acquiring service records, passports, and military service-connected disability compensation.

I thank Sharon so much for everything that she has done for Ohio's Eighth District. May she enjoy her well-earned retirement.

REMEMBERING BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES McGEE

(Ms. PRESSLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of legendary retired Air Force Brigadier General Charles McGee, who peacefully departed on the morning of January 16, 2022. He was 102 years young and one of the last surviving Tuskegee Airmen.

Charles McGee lived a full and beautiful life of bravery and perseverance. He was the embodiment of hope and service.

As a Tuskegee Airman, he made history as one of the first Black military aviators, breaking the color barrier in the armed services during World War II and flying 409 fighter combat missions in three wars.

In addition to his life of service, Mr. McGee created an enduring legacy through the family that he grew. He married the love of his life, Ms. Frances Nelson, in April 1942. The two would go on to be married for more than 50 years.

He is survived by his 3 children, Charlene, Ronald, and Yvonne; 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great-grandchild.

Black history is American history, and Charles McGee is an American hero. General McGee's legacy will live on through the pages of our history, the incredible family he created, and the lives he touched, including my own.

Mr. Speaker, to our General, our beloved Papa Gee, I pray that he rests in peace and power, reunited with his love, Frances, with the wind forever at his back and the clearest blue skies ahead.

REMEMBERING DWIGHT L. CLEMENTS

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to speak about a great Nebraskan and a great American. His name is Dwight L. Clements. He died last week at 102 years old.

Dwight Clements was born in Elmwood, Nebraska, and he went on to study at the University of Nebraska and got a degree in business.

But this is the interesting part, Mr. Speaker: His education was disrupted by World War II, where he served as an Army combat engineer in France until the war ended in 1945.

After the war, Dwight earned his law degree at the University of Nebraska and then returned to small-town Elmwood to work at the family-owned American Exchange Bank and to join the law firm with his father, Clements Law Firm. He continued in banking and law until he retired in 1985.

But this is the point, Mr. Speaker: Dwight Clements was a humble, dutiful, small-town Nebraskan. But as a member of the Greatest Generation, he served something far larger than himself. Through his sense of duty, selflessness, sacrifice, and patriotism, he represented the kind of person that not only holds Nebraska together but holds America together.

May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING THORNTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Thornton Fire Department in Thornton, Colorado, for earning the 2021 Congressional Fire Services Institute's Masimo Excellence in Fire Service-Based EMS Award, which is given annually to the top fire department in the country.

Throughout the COVID–19 pandemic, the Thornton Fire Department has gone above and beyond to serve their community. As part of their efforts, they created a Pandemic Response Team that has conducted over 20,000 COVID tests for public employees, senior citizens, first responders, and other community members. When vaccines became available, the Pandemic Response Team expanded their services to administer over 80,000 vaccinations at drive-through sites for city employees and other community members.

The Pandemic Response Team's success led other fire agencies around the country to look to Thornton as a model for how to effectively respond to the challenges of COVID–19.

In a very difficult year for fire and emergency services, the Thornton Fire Department's innovative approach to a rapidly changing public health crisis is something we should all thank them for and model.

FACING FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC WEAKNESS

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

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as our Nation faces major foreign and domestic challenges brought on by the weakness of the Biden administration.

The border crisis, the botched withdrawal from Afghanistan, the failure to hold China accountable, the greenlighting of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, and ''minor incursion'' remarks have sent signals of weakness to our global adversaries. That weakness is now being tested as Russian aggression threatens the sovereignty of our strategic partners in Ukraine.

This threat to Ukraine is also a threat to democracy. Ukraine needs our support to defend itself. That means sending a strong signal by supporting more military and security equipment, as well as immediate financial, economic, and energy sanctions against the Russians.

At this time, our national sovereignty has been betrayed by the administration. Illegal immigrants and drugs are flowing across the southern border at a record pace.

We must act to secure our borders and support Ukraine. Failure to do so will weaken our national security for years to come.

ADDRESSING AMERICA'S FENTANYL CRISIS

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, last year, more than 100,000 Americans died from drug overdoses, 60 percent of them from fentanyl. These were mothers and fathers. They were relatives, neighbors, friends. One was my nephew Eli.

Eli died from an unintentional fentanyl overdose, using a legal herbal supplement that had been laced with fentanyl. He would have turned 21 tomorrow.

What happened to Eli is not unique. Young people on social media who think that they are buying Adderall or Xanax are being sold fentanyl-contaminated counterfeits.

It is the responsibility of every Member of Congress to acknowledge that fentanyl is killing our constituents everywhere in America.

We know that the chemicals to develop these drugs originate in China. They are shipped to Mexico and flood our country.

We know that social platforms are capable of changing their algorithms to cut dealers' access to buyers, and we know that fentanyl test strips save lives but remain illegal in too many States.

Mr. Speaker, we can address these challenges. It is how we ensure that our kids, other kids like Eli, aren't lost and don't miss the opportunity to celebrate their 21st birthday.

RECOGNIZING TURNER SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Turner Syndrome Awareness Month and my constituent, Nicole Cleveland, for bringing attention to this little-known disease.

At birth, Nicole was diagnosed with TS and was told she may never walk.

She did. Nicole was told that she would never go to college. She did. She graduated from Morningside University with a degree in political science and journalism.

But Nicole did not stop there. She went on to be the youngest woman ever elected to the Sergeant Bluff City Council and will be releasing her first book this spring called ''The Butterfly Chronicles.''

Now, she commits her time and talent to advocating for the more than 70,000 American women and girls who have TS.

In conjunction with her advocacy, I will soon be introducing a bill, the Protecting Girls with Turner Syndrome Act, to criminalize the abortion of any baby diagnosed with TS because my faith teaches me that every person is created for a purpose, and Nicole was certainly created as a special one.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Nicole for bringing awareness of TS and sharing her message of optimism and hope with so many people.

EXTENDING THE CHILD TAX CREDIT

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

Ms. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call for an extension of the critical child tax credit.

Here is the truth: Before expiring at the end of 2021, the expanded child tax credit was working. Payments lowered hunger. They kept nearly 4 million children out of poverty. And they helped countless people make ends meet.

The child tax credit was a critical lifeline for more than 35 million American families. This includes more than 70,000 in my district, which has some of the highest poverty in America.

Shaneice, a mother of three from Cleveland, used the payments to pay rent and afford basic necessities. But now, 2 months after the payments stopped, Shaneice says she is just getting by, and she is looking for side jobs to support her family.

It is time to extend the child tax credit. We cannot—we must not—let families down.

CATCHING BENGALS FEVER

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, greater Cincinnati is in the grips of Bengals fever.

From pep rallies at Paul Brown Stadium, to celebrations at bars and restaurants, and at home, to wall-to-wall coverage on the nightly news, everyone is celebrating the Bengals' third trip to the Super Bowl.

In that spirit, the city of Cheviot, on Cincinnati's west side, just renamed a number of streets after Bengals players. Cheviot residents will be driving down Joe Burrow Way rather than Harrison Avenue and Chase Drive instead of Glenmore Avenue.

It reminds me of the last time the Bengals went to the Super Bowl, back in 1989. Yes, it has been a while. We faced legendary 49ers quarterback Joe Montana for the second time at the Super Bowl. I was on the Cincinnati City Council at the time, and Montana Avenue became Esiason Street—that is Boomer Esiason, the Bengals quarterback—all in good fun, of course.

Well done, Cheviot. And I will just close with this: Who Dey.

CELEBRATING MINNESOTA WINTERS

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

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, Minnesota is known for our winters. Most think we endure them, but the truth is, we celebrate them. From ice fishing to pond hockey to skiing, we love our snow and ice.

That is why I rise today to honor the 23 Minnesotans representing Team USA at this year's winter games.

Despite a population of under 6 million people, Minnesota sent more athletes to the Olympics than 49 of our 50 States and 61 of the 91 nations at the Olympics.

Five of those athletes hail from the district I represent, Minnesota's Frozen Third, including Jake Brown, Brock Faber, Dani Cameranesi, Grace Zumwinkle, and Kelly Pannek.

This is the first winter games in history to rely on almost 100 percent artificial snow, and if climate change continues to accelerate, few cities in the world will have enough snow to host future Winter Olympic Games.

Countless jobs in my district rely on snow and winter, like those at Strata Systems, which helped design the sleds for our luge team, and Polaris, the iconic snowmobile maker. We need to keep the North cold all around the world, and I invite my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to help us do so.

□ 1215

CALIFORNIA'S HIGH-SPEED RAIL COSTS HAVE SKYROCKETED

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, California's high-speed rail has issued a new draft business plan for the year 2022 that was released yesterday. It shows now a new price tag of $105 billion, which is an increase of $5 billion over the last plan we just received not too long ago.

Now, the original price that voters agreed to back in 2008 when it was placed on the ballot in front of them was a $33 billion, not $105 billion, plan.

Notably, it will now install a second rail between the towns of Merced and Bakersfield. Two tracks; two tracks that won't actually travel at high speeds because they can't get up to speed in that amount of distance. Two tracks that will be calling, I guess, ghost passengers for people that aren't going to be using this project anyway between Bakersfield and Merced.

Every transit agency in the country ought to be looking at this plan to see how it works. We need to be building water storage; we need to be spending money on forestry, because our forests burn every year, instead of this boondoggle, which continues to be a rat hole of good money for a project that isn't helping anybody.

REMEMBERING CAROLYN COLEMAN

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late Commissioner Carolyn Coleman, a loving mother, grandmother, and a remarkable trailblazer for civil rights.

She had a lifelong commitment to activism, from her first heroic actions at the Savannah sit-in, to her years of advising Governor Hunt on legislation to benefit minorities. She made history as Guilford County's first African-American chairwoman in 2005, where she continued to serve her community for the next two decades.

Commissioner Coleman recently earned the North Carolina Association of Black County Officials Frederick Douglass award for her work feeding the community during the pandemic, a testament to her unwavering commitment to service.

She was never the center of attention, but when she spoke, all eyes immediately went to her. Her thoughtful words had the power to change minds and encourage others to join her calls to action. Her influence made a consistent and admirable impact on the community.

Carolyn Coleman paved the way for progress, with a kind heart and a relentless spirit. She will be deeply missed by the Triad community, but she leaves behind an incredible legacy and a loving family. May her memory be a blessing for all who knew her.

PRESSURE TO USE CERTAIN COVID DRUGS

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, as we break here for a recess, it is important to remember that COVID is still a very serious threat, and a little under 2,000 people a day are dying of it.

I have been contacted by medical professionals in my district who feel there is too much pressure to use

remdesivir and not enough opportunity to use ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine to treat this horrific disease. This is unprecedented that people would step in.

As I understand it, hospitals are billing out over $3,000 a day for remdesivir, but they may be getting under $50 or $60 a day for ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine.

The combination of doctors being prevented from doing what they want and the fact that some people are making a lot more money on one drug than the other is something the press should be looking into, and it is something I think our Oversight and Reform Committee should be looking into.

I hope if anybody is paying attention, you pick up on this story and see what the real background is. I am not an expert on the topic, but experts on the topic do believe that people are dying unnecessarily.

AMERICA MUST STAND WITH KOSOVO

(Mr. TORRES of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I proudly stand before you to celebrate the 14th independence of Kosovo, one of the world's youngest nations.

Rising from the ruins of ethnic cleansing at the murderous hands of one of the worst dictators in the 20th century, Kosovo has built a burgeoning democracy in whose heart the United States holds a special place.

Indeed, the U.S. has no greater friend in southeast Europe than Kosovo, and Kosovo should have no greater friend in the world than the U.S. We owe it to that friendship, as well as to the greater cause of democracy, to stand firmly with Kosovo as it seeks universal recognition from the international community and membership in both the EU and NATO.

The time has come for Kosovo to be given the full respect and recognition that an independent country deserves.

The United States must stand with those that not only stand with America but also stand for America. Kosovo stands for the American vision of a more democratic world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HAVEN J. BARLOW

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

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Haven J. Barlow. Utah lost a community giant who lived to be 100 years old. It is hard to believe, but Haven's life was nearly cut short when at just 9 months old, a train struck the Model T Ford he was riding in, killing his mother and three other passengers.

Fortunately, he survived, and he lived a life full of service to others. Haven served our country as a Navy ensign in World War II and was the longest-serving State legislator in Utah history, first elected in 1953 and served until 1995.

Haven's service to Utah and Davis County is immeasurable, where he spent much of his time focused on matters pertaining to education. He led the fight to establish and fund the first State vocational institution in Davis County, now Davis Technical College, the establishment of Weber State/Davis campus, and Utah's creation of the weighted pupil index (WPU), ensuring a child can get the same level of education regardless of where they lived.

In addition, Haven helped establish the Hill Aerospace Museum, the Freeport Center, the restoration of Utah's Governor's mansion, and was behind the original Utah Symphony Endowment Fund.

Haven was married to Bonnie Rae Ellison for 58 years before her passing, and raised six children. He is a Utah legend, and we honor him in his passing.

HUMAN DIGNITY IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the passage of the Global Respect Act. I thank Congressman CICILLINE for sponsoring this legislation and also Chairman MEEKS and the Speaker for bringing it to the floor.

Human dignity is a basic human right, yet LGBTQ individuals are often targets for harassment, violence, and even death, simply based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

As chair of the State, Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, I am committed to protecting and promoting the human rights and dignity of all people, especially those who are marginalized and most vulnerable, such as LGBTQ individuals.

I am so proud that in the House FY22 SFOPS bill we provided $15 million for the Global Equality Fund at the State Department and $10 million for the protection of LGBTQ persons at USAID.

The Global Respect Act will ensure that the administration has the tools it needs to advance the rights of all human beings, regardless of who they are or who they love. This bill upholds our core values of tolerance and compassion for our fellow human beings. I want to congratulate this body for voting for this bill today.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise in strong support of H.R. 3485, the Global Respect Act of 2021, which mandates a listing of and visa restrictions on foreign persons responsible for or complicit in human rights violations against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) persons.

It is very difficult for these individuals to suffer what they suffer. This community, of course, faces discrimination, violence, and bigotry all over the world. Sixty-eight countries criminalize same-sex sexual relations, which means that more than one-third of the United Nations' member states criminalize consenting adult and same-sex sexual relations. It includes nation-states in Africa. In up to nine countries, same-sex sexual relations may be punishable by death, and so-called anti-LGBTQ-plus propaganda laws inhibit LGBTQ-plus advocacy in at least three countries.

Let me thank Mr. CICILLINE and the leadership for putting this bill forward. This is a bipartisan bill with a list of foreign individuals found responsible for human rights violations against this community.

I am supporting this bill because it has teeth because it requires denial of and limitations on visas. Let me ask the Senate to pass Global Respect Act, H.R. 3485.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN.)

JANUARY 6 WOUNDS MUST HEAL

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished majority whip for yielding me the time and for his commitment to justice and all necessary to make this country a better place for everybody.

Mr. Speaker, some say that time heals all wounds. In the hours right after the January 6 attack, I was hopeful that with time America might begin to heal, too; that in the wake of such a dastardly attack on our democracy, Republicans would recoil in disgust at what they had created; that after the President of the United States whipped a violent mob into a frenzy and sent them here to attack Congress, they might finally say enough is enough.

That didn't happen, and it is not going to. The Republican National Committee just called January 6 ''legitimate political discourse.'' Legitimate political discourse? They had lead pipes and guns. They destroyed property and beat cops. Give me a break.

Sadly, this is just their latest attempt to rewrite history. Last year they called January 6, ''a normal tourist visit.'' They continue obstructing the January 6th Select Committee.

They continue spreading the big lie that the election was stolen despite overwhelming, incontrovertible evidence that it wasn't.

The former President again promised to pardon those who engaged in violence if he assumes office again. This week we learned that he considered using the military to seize ballot boxes. Now, there is a sentence that sends a chill down my spine.

I credit Leader MCCONNELL, who rebuked his party this week. He said January 6 was ''a violent insurrection for the purpose of trying to prevent the peaceful transfer of power.'' But he is the exception.

For a majority of Republicans, things have not changed. They have stayed the same, stuck in a QAnon fever dream, waiting at the beck and call of a twice-impeached ex-President who has spent his retirement shredding evidence at Mar-a-Lago. Time has not stiffened their spines. It hasn't jolted them into reality or brought us together like we were in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks.

January 6 hasn't become a turning point. Instead, it has become a talking point. This is the new Republican reality. To gain support from the ex-President, you have to repeat a lie that the election was stolen, and to maintain the support of the Republican Party, you have to repeat another lie, that January 6 wasn't a violent uprising against America.

There is a word for that, Mr. Speaker. It is called fascism, and it is a jarring word, one I don't use lightly. So let me be clear exactly how I mean it. Fascism isn't about a particular set of beliefs or political ideology. It is about power and the lengths to which some people will go to acquire and retain it.

For decades, America fought against fascism, but today a growing movement here at home seeks to upend norms, settle disagreement with violence, and silence the truth.

''Free societies,'' American philosopher Jason Stanley says, ''require truth, and so to smash freedom, you must smash truth.''

So let me say this plainly: The election was not stolen. Trump-appointed judges say it was not stolen. Republican-led investigations say it was not stolen. Republican officials responsible for counting votes say it wasn't stolen.

If you are an elected official and you continue smashing the truth, even after all that we have learned about what happened on January 6, you are supporting fascism.

What is happening is not new. Even the earliest philosopher saw that democracies are particularly susceptible to tyranny. There is no reason to believe it can't happen here.

What is special about America isn't the strength of our institutions alone, it is the strength and courage of the people willing to stand up and fight for them. And that is why I am glad the January 6th Select Committee is doing its work. I am grateful President Biden isn't falling for false claims of executive privilege by the ex-President designed to cover up what went on. And I am proud of the people who keep showing up day in and day out despite going through hell that day, from congressional staff to the administrative staff, to cafeteria workers, to the cleaning crews, to the Capitol Police. Each of you is playing a vital role in defending our democracy.

□ 1230

But make no mistake, we are standing on the precipice.

When we spend hours and hours debating whether State legislatures should be allowed to nullify ballots; when politicians call an attempt to violently overthrow the United States Government ''legitimate political discourse,'' we are in a dangerous spot.

The insurrection, conspiracy theories, the big lie, voter suppression, they are all branches on the same tree.

And at the root of all of it is power.

Now, I don't have a magic wand to make it better, I have a warning: Time won't heal our wounds or reign in fascism in America. That is why we must demand the truth.

If we don't, the people who are trying to normalize what happened on January 6 won't be dismissed. They will be empowered.

God help us all, and God help the United States of America if that happens.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to discuss some other theories and to honor this month, Black History Month, with first an announcement.

Last year, the Governor of Kentucky wrote President Biden asking him to promote Colonel Charles Young to brigadier general.

Charles Young is not a name that most people in the country probably recognize. Charles was a ''buffalo soldier.'' He was the third African American to graduate from West Point. And stories are legendary as to what Charles went through.

Charles was born a son of slaves back in 1864 in Kentucky, but he rose and went into the military at the urging of his father and performed heroically. However, for obvious reasons, he was stuck at lieutenant colonel and never got the promotion which he deserved.

So, posthumously, last week, the Defense Department, upon the request of the Governor of Kentucky—and I was pleased to write a letter to the President in support of that request—Charles was promoted to general. I thank the Defense Department for repairing that fault.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Black History Month started out back in 1926. It was started by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.

Now, Dr. Woodson is known by most of us as the father of Black history. Dr. Woodson had some strong feelings about the contributions that African Americans were making to this great country that were going untold and intentionally ignored. So Dr. Woodson and the association lobbied for a week to focus the country's attention on the contributions of Black Americans. He was successful, and as I said, in 1926, the week was established.

Now, back in the sixties, many college campuses had a lot of activity going on on those campuses, and I am very familiar with some of them, but one of the things that came up was this focus on the contributions of African Americans. And so a movement started on these campuses. They decided—in fact, quite frankly, I believe Kent University was the first university that decided—that it would just celebrate and focus on African-American history for the entire month of February, that a week was not enough.

Now, we hear a lot of stories about February being the shortest month of the year and why that was set aside for the study of Black history. Well, the fact of the matter is, the number of days in the month had nothing to do with it. It was all about 2 days in the month of February.

When the agreement was made to celebrate Black History Month, Carter G. Woodson and the association picked February because February 12 was the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, and February 14 was the birthday of Frederick Douglass. So to embrace both of those birthdays, they picked a week in February that encompassed the two days. That is how it got to be February.

And then, of course, with the agitation on the college campuses, they started a tradition of celebrating the whole month. And, of course, in 1969 the activity took place up at Kent, and in 1976 President Gerald Ford decided to officially recognize the month of February as Black History Month. That is how we got to this point. And every President since has followed suit.

Now, today, the teaching of Black history has taken on a new meaning in this polarized country that we are currently experiencing. The publication, Education Week, reports that since January 2021—so 13 months—14 States led by Republican Governors, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Utah, Oklahoma, Texas, Iowa, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Montana, and Idaho have all imposed restrictions or bans on teaching about racial issues. And legislation is currently pending in another 23 States.

Black History Month, as I just indicated, was established officially by a Republican President, Gerald Ford, but we have become so polarized and this has become so politicized that in the last 13 months, 14 States led by Republican Governors have imposed restrictions or bans on teaching about racial issues.

These States claim to be protecting the K–12 students from being taught critical race theory, or as we have seen

in some publications, things that make White children uncomfortable.

I would like to remind all of us, especially my friends on the other side of the aisle, that theory is part of the higher education experience and is not part of any curriculum in K–12. Instead, these students are being taught facts, what I call critical race facts.

Now, all of us are aware of the contributions of people like Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., Harriet Tubman, and none of us seem to be uncomfortable with knowing about these people. But, Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of other people of color who have made significant contributions to the growth and development of this great country that have been intentionally left out of our history books. And for some strange reason, people seem to feel that students will be uncomfortable learning about those contributions. It is important to the full development of all children to be taught exactly what this country is all about.

Let me offer a few examples of what I am talking about here. In fact, I opened up Black History Month this year speaking to students over at Gonzaga High School. And in that speech, as I have done on this floor, I looked up at the lights, and I talked to those students a little bit about the person that history records as responsible for the light bulb: Thomas Edison. Nobody argues with that. We are very comfortable with knowing that, reading about that in the history books, and studying about Thomas Edison that many of us call ''the greatest inventor of all times.''

But the fact of the matter is that Thomas Edison did invent the light bulb, but a very critical, unknown fact to most people is that he could not get the light bulb to work. He could get it to come on, but he couldn't get it to stay on. And it was not until someone told Thomas Edison about an African American, a young man, the son of former slaves—his parents had escaped from slavery, and they were living up in Massachusetts—this young man was totally different from Thomas Edison; his name was Lewis Latimer.

Thomas Edison was informed that this light bulb that he couldn't get to stay on, this guy up in Massachusetts might be able to solve his problem, if he could just step outside of his comfort zone. Oh, it may be uncomfortable, but if you can step outside of your comfort zone and sit down with Lewis Latimer, this man has invented a filament that might make your light bulb work.

Thomas Edison decided to do that. He wanted to light the world. He was having problems. For some reason he could not get it done.

□ 1245

So he went up to Massachusetts and he sat down with Lewis Latimer. And sure enough, Lewis Latimer's filament, when put inside of Thomas Edison's light bulb, it worked. And together, they lit the world.

It should not be uncomfortable for people to know about Lewis Latimer. That is not critical race theory. That is a critical racial fact that ought to be known by all children and adults. And what is wrong with teaching that in the classrooms? For some strange reason, a lot of people feel that would be uncomfortable for children to learn.

There are plenty other examples like that. I think today of another one, the steam engine. Nobody will argue about how important the steam engine was and still is to the industrial revolution. And if you ask people, most people from the books they have learned, who invented the steam engine, they will tell you Thomas Savery. And they would be correct.

But when Thomas Savery invented the steam engine, it would overheat and they would have to cut the engine off. And sometimes in order to keep from cutting it off, they would employ a person they called an oiler. And that person's job was to pour oil on this engine so it would keep running. They would not have to shut it down. And it was a very dangerous job; some lost their limbs carrying out their duties.

But there was a guy working in a similar situation who came up with an automatic oil pan. He designed a way for the engine to self-lubricate so he would not have to turn it off and lose production, so he would not have to employ a person who could lose a limb.

That man's name was Elijah McCoy, who also—according to my research—was the son of slaves. He was a prolific inventor. This was just one of the things that he invented. In fact, Elijah McCoy's genius was so well-thought of and highly respected, and he had invented so many things to make life better, to make production more profitable, to make this country a better place. And out of respect for his genius, the stories are told that whenever anybody came up with some gadget or something to make life easier, the question was asked often, ''Is this a real McCoy?'' It is very comfortable for people, even today, to use that phrase, ask that question:

Is that the real McCoy? Are you the real McCoy?

Why would it be so uncomfortable for children in the classroom to know that that iconic phrase came about as a result of the significant contribution to the human spirt, to the greatness of America by an African American named Elijah McCoy. Why is that to be uncomfortable? There is nothing that should be uncomfortable about that.

I also think today about another African American, Garrett A. Morgan. Now, all of us marvel at the gas mask. I remember as a child, the first time I saw one and experimented with how it worked, I had no idea of the origin of it at the time. In fact, if I were to read the books that were published, I still would not have known the real origin, because in the books, they would tell you that John Haldane, a Scottish inventor who came to this country, and supposedly during World War I, invented the first gas mask.

But the critical fact is World War I started in 1914; ended in 1918. But in 1911 or thereabouts, a man named Garrett Morgan, also from Kentucky, he was born to a mother who was Native American and a father who was African American, who was also a former slave.

Morgan, in 1914, at the beginning of World War I, invented the gas mask. And that gas mask was used in 1916 in New York City to save the lives of over 500 people caught in some kind of an accident. Now, if you look at the calendar, this was done before John Haldane, whatever contraption he may have developed.

Now the story of Garrett Morgan is kind of interesting and a little bit—maybe to some, I know to me—uncomfortable to think about. Because Garrett Morgan experienced a lot of difficulty trying to sell his gas mask. And people wanted to use it for a big event in Cleveland, Ohio, people wanted the gas mask, but they wouldn't buy it from him because of his color.

So Garrett Morgan hired a White actor to pose as the inventor. And he went along with the inventor and he put the gas mask, the hood, on to demonstrate it and, of course, to hide who he really was. That is how he was able to sell his gas mask. As effective as it was, as good of an invention that it was, they would not buy it from him simply because of his skin color.

Now, that might have disappointed him, and it certainly should have, but he didn't let that deter him. He went on with other inventions. And some know that it is Garrett A. Morgan that is credited with being the inventor of the traffic light. So these inventions that made life easier for people, made industrial plants more productive, made our streets safer, made our existence much more pleasant and much more conducive to reading, to getting around, all by African Americans.

What is uncomfortable about teaching this in our classrooms? What is so bad about children knowing this? Why shouldn't the descendants of all three of these people, why shouldn't their descendants be made to feel proud of the contributions of their great, great, great—maybe more greats—grandfather or great uncle or aunt. Why would anybody be uncomfortable with that?

Mr. Speaker, that is not the only field this is in. I often talk about Charles Drew. When I was growing up, polio visited my neighborhood twice, leaving one of my playmates dead and another one crippled for life. And along came Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin, two men who happen to have been born white, two men who had a certain genius, who did significant research. Because of their genius and because of their great research, they were able to unlock some secrets. And together, they virtually eliminated polio from the face of the Earth.

There is nothing uncomfortable about talking about that and people

learning about that. So why would it be uncomfortable for the guy who was able to unlock some secrets of the blood cells, Charles Drew, an African American, born right here in Washington, D.C., who because of his research, he was able to figure out how to store blood, save it until it was needed.

Blood spoils once it leaves the human body, but Charles Drew opened up the secrets and figured out how to store blood and save it until it was needed. Now, he has a pretty interesting history, also.

□ 1300

Charles Drew headed up the blood bank. He went off to Europe to head up the blood bank, and his genius was recognized.

It is kind of interesting because he resigned from the job. Why? Because they insisted that the blood coming from Black people had to be stored separately from the blood coming from White people. It sounds a little bit silly today, but that is what they did.

Soldiers were dying on the battlefield because of the loss of blood. You have to take the time to figure out: Wait a minute. This is a Black soldier, so we have to find some blood from a Black person.

Scientifically, it has been proven forever that there ain't no difference in the blood.

Today, we don't separate the blood anymore because we learned better. We have a little saying in the neighborhood I grew up in: When a person learns better, a person will do better.

Well, I am hoping that we will take a little time to learn better about the history of African Americans. Maybe if we did, we will do better.

Now, I don't want to leave here without bringing up another incident because this is one that bugs me a little bit. I keep some busts around my home, and of course, I have one of Charles Drew and Matthew Henson, but I also have one of Daniel Hale Williams, who few people know. Daniel Hale Williams was an African American.

If you look in the books and they ask the question: Who is the father of open-heart surgery? You will get the name of Dr. C. Walton Lillehei, who was White. He is credited in all the books with performing the first open-heart surgery. He just passed away in 1999. His surgery was performed in 1952. But that is not the real history.

Why would it be uncomfortable for you to know that Daniel Hale Williams, who was a doctor and who founded the Provident Hospital up in Chicago, one day, back in 1893, had someone come to that hospital with a stab wound in the chest? The guy happened to have been White, but Daniel Hale Williams, the Black guy, performed open-heart surgery and saved the man's life, and he lived 20 years afterward.

The textbooks don't record that. They decided to wait almost 100 years to give somebody else credit. That is what happened, and that is why we look at this week.

Now, I think that Carter Woodson was very concerned about what seemed to be going on today, people leaving out facts, ignoring facts, lowering their level of respect for people. I can't tell you how many times I have been engaged in conversation with people who, out of their ignorance, say things that they really believe that indicate there can be found no significant contributions to this great country from people of color. I have had it said to me.

It is not their fault. They believe that because that is what they have seen in the books or have not seen.

If we teach these facts, then I think Black history will take on a new meaning, and Black History Month would not be so uncomfortable for anybody to celebrate.

Next month, we will celebrate Women's History Month simply because so many of the contributions of women have been left out and ignored. So, we take the month of March to focus on those things, and that is why it is so important for us.

Mr. Speaker, I did not look at the clock. How much time do I have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina has 23 minutes remaining.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I have a lot of time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), who wanted to participate in this hour. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, 23 minutes may not be enough for Ms. JACKSON LEE, but that is all we have left.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me acknowledge just a stunning and very pivotal and important Black history message that our whip has given. He really is our historian, and I certainly want to pay tribute and give credence to the great work that he has established here for us.

Mr. Speaker, it was so powerful to be able to reorder critical race theory to critical race fact. I just want to reinforce that everyone knows, and it has been for decades, that critical race theory is an aspect of graduate teaching, master's, Ph.D.s, and in law schools. The basis of it is the seeming infusion of racism in society by way of laws and other actions.

Black history has always been, and the founder of Black history always wanted it to be, an opportunity for healing and bringing us together by understanding. I think the whip has laid out a stupendous story, a better understanding of Charles Drew and a better understanding of the light bulb.

Why wouldn't boys and girls from all walks of life want to understand how we are better together than we are separate?

I just want to take a moment to take up a different theme that speaks to the issue of Black history. I want to talk about the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. As well, I want to make sure that we highlight some aspects of Black history.

Mr. Speaker, let me, first of all, indicate that Black history is an important element of who we are. I am just going to call off the kinds of names that I hope will be welcomed in any classroom: President Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States, the first African-American President; Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall; U.S. Senator Blanche Kelso Bruce; U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan; U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland; Dr. Guion Stewart Bluford; Mae C. Jemison—people that I knew because, living in Houston, they were astronauts that went out of Johnson Space Center—Dr. McNair, whose life was lost in the service of this Nation as an astronaut.

Why wouldn't we want to talk about such beloved personalities who overcame obstacles to do great things? Activists and intellectual authors and artists like Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, these were individuals in the era of post-slavery and post-Reconstruction, in many instances, who still laid the groundwork for us.

James Baldwin, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks, just to name a few of the countless number of well-known and unsung heroes.

James Baldwin, of course, an author; Toni Morrison, an author; and Gwendolyn Brooks. Obviously, Toni being maligned because of not being understood. Harriet Tubman, an unbelievable story with the Underground Railroad. Rosa Parks, who sat down along with others. Maya Angelou, poet laureate.

I also want to put into the RECORD names of historical figures, some of whom have passed, from my own community: Reverend F.N. Williams, Sr.; Dr. S.J. Gilbert, Sr.; Reverend Crawford W. Kimble; Reverend E. Stanley Branch; Reverend William A. Lawson, emeritus; Reverend Johnnie Jeffery ''J.J.'' Roberson; Mr. John Bland; Ms. Ruby Moseley; Ms. Dorothy Hubbard; Ms. Doris Hubbard—all of them infused liberty and liberation into our community—Acres Homes; Third Ward; Fifth Ward; South Park; Sunnyside; Willie Bell Boone; Ms. Holly Hogrobrooks, one of the first student protesters at Weingarten's; Mr. Deloyd Parker, who founded SHAPE, a pivotal agency in our community; Ms. Lenora ''Doll'' Carter; and Mr. Gerald Womack. At 16 years old, Gerald Womack opened his own real estate company, and he is one of the most generous humanitarians and businessmen living in our community today.

I only call these names out to align myself with the issue of facts. Why wouldn't we want to know the facts of each of our communities? Why wouldn't we want to know those who descended from those who came on Pilgrims' pride? Why wouldn't we want to

know those who are the legacies of the indigenous people, Native Americans, and many different Tribes, many of whom, of course, married African Americans as slaves or in the post-slave era?

Why wouldn't we want to know that history? I am stunned that we would not want to do so.

I believe it is important to not only know history that is pleasant but that we can call off wonderful people in our community who, in spite of the challenges and tribulations, became great leaders. But I also want to bring to the attention—because I have such an affection and love for this book taught to me by not only the whip, who appreciates this book called the Constitution, but Barbara Jordan reminded me to always carry it, for ladies, in their purses.

George Washington called the Constitution ''the guide, which I will never abandon.'' He is absolutely right.

''The Declaration of Independence was the promise; the Constitution was the fulfillment.'' A Republican judge, Warren Burger, said that. It couldn't be more true.

□ 1315

That seems to be taken sideways today because you can wrap the Constitution in the history of Black America, Mr. Speaker. So I rise for us to discuss today both the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. As I cherish the Constitution, I can assure you that I cherish those amendments.

I think we should remind America that we are the only population—we don't do it angrily—that were held in bondage for a period of time, longer than two centuries, 246 years longer than the Nation is old—we will meet that timeframe probably this July—but for a long time, longer than the Nation was old.

We know that President Lincoln had many reasons. He frankly thought he could bring the Union together if he could crush the rebellion in the South by freeing the slaves. In 1862, President Lincoln came to believe—and by the way, I and my friends, all of us call ourselves Lincolnesque. We look to the other party as the party of Lincoln, those wonderful stories that we learned in school, and we just knew this tall man called Abe Lincoln.

He was humble, not rich, but rich in spirit and courage. He believed firmly that emancipating the enslaved people in the South would help the Union crush the Confederate rebellion in the Civil War and win the Civil War.

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation which took effect in 1863 announced that all persons held as slaves within any State shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.

Wouldn't that be a good lesson to understand, whether you are in first grade or whether you are in fourth grade or whether you are in middle school?

The largesse and the values embedded in the Constitution to create a more perfect Union, here we are in the 1800s trying to proclaim that value. That is a value. That is a fact. But as we know, the Emancipation Proclamation itself did not end slavery in the United States, as it only applied to the 11 Confederate States then at war against the Union and only to the portion of those States not already under Union control.

To make it permanent, it would have to be a constitutional amendment. So in 1864, the U.S. Senate passed a proposed amendment banning slavery with the necessary two-thirds majority, but it faltered in the House of Representatives. So when Congress reconvened in 1864, the emboldened Republicans put the proposed amendment up for a vote again, and Lincoln threw himself into the legislative process, inviting individual Representatives to his office to discuss the amendment and putting it forward.

Isn't that like sweet music?

The Republicans, the Lincoln Republicans, got going. Lincoln was committed to the passage of the 13th Amendment, telling his allies to see what is before you to focus on the most important thing, that this amendment protects the slaves now born and in the United States but settles the question for all time for the millions yet to be born.

What an emotional and moving set of words. How emotional for the world to see how small it was at that time of this new experiment that left the shores of Europe.

What is this thing called the United States of America?

Can they actually govern? Can they lead?

Can they live? Is democracy real?

It is a democratic republic wrapped up in the history of slaves, Black history, the history of African Americans.

The allies got busy and got working, and he reportedly told them: I leave it to you to determine how it shall be done but remember that I am President of the United States, clothed with immense power, and I expect you to procure these votes.

That gives a sense of democracy that he didn't go in and drag people out. He actually told his allies: Let's try to get it done. I have got the power, but let's try to get votes.

We have seen that happen with some sadness to lack of success, but we stand on this floor in tribute to a man who wanted to see voting rights continue and continue and continue.

So on January 31st, 1865, the House of Representatives passed the proposed amendment with a vote of 119–56, just over the required two-thirds, and the following day Lincoln approved a joint resolution of Congress submitting it to the States for ratification.

That is a beautiful story. That is a fact. That is Black history. This is American history. I think that is the point that I want to make, that Black history is American history. It is no less and no more.

There should be no doubt in trying to teach American history that has the wonderful tinge of Black history.

Yesterday, February 8, 2022, honored the 15th Amendment—which I will speak somewhat about—to the United States Constitution which outlaws discrimination in voting on the basis of race, color, and previous conditions of servitude, therefore, advancing suffrage for African Americans.

This was the last and most difficult and hard-fought of all the Reconstruction congressional constitutional amendments to confer citizenship upon the formerly enslaved. The intention of this amendment was to codify permanently the right to vote for all freed men. Immediately the impact of this amendment proved transformative as freed men—women still were not allowed to vote—exercised the right to vote and in coalition elected several hundred African Americans to office.

How powerful this history is. How factual this history is. How coming together this history was, that you had, by birthright citizenship, the right to vote no matter whether or not you were previously enslaved or the color of your skin or previous condition. That is history.

So why do we talk about history today?

I said it was in the name of our dear, late friend and the many people who Whip CLYBURN spoke to, but we do it because—although the 13th and 14th Amendments, the 14th giving due process rights—1921, this is a picture that we saw: captured Negroes on the way to the convention hall during the Tulsa race riot.

The freed slaves actually did everything that America said they shall do. They built this community on land given to them. They had hotels and hospitals. They had schools, and they had marching bands. Yet, unfortunately, it triggered a dislike.

Maybe this should be a continuation of an understanding and grades that would appreciate the fact that there were those who stood, had economic development and did all that citizens were expected to do, integrated into society but happened to be some freed slaves and some the descendants of enslaved Africans.

The Tulsa race riots were 1921. So the question of race continues. It started in the origins of slavery and slaves coming to the United States, but it continued.

But true history, Mr. Speaker, is a recognition that the facts won't hurt you, that they give you strength and allow you to continue to grow. But I think that is what I think this little book represents.

Quickly, I want to show a more potent picture, for that is what happened in America for 246 years.

Again, the anguish and anger are not the approach that we want to leave with our fellow Americans. It is the appreciation of the significance of Black history and the significance of a presence of a people in this country. And

the fact that this Constitution wanted to get rid of that, that is a good thing. That is the goodness of America. That story should be told.

So when we talk about the many Members of Congress who have come to accept the healing powers of a bill that studies slavery and establishes a commission to deal with its repair and restoration and results like H.R. 40, 33 years filed in this Congress, what happens is that we have the facts, we have the approach, and the approach is healing.

So as I close my remarks, let me say that we are a continuing work in progress. I am so grateful to the whip for allowing me this moment to remind us that our special history is this book.

So when we hear a Brian Flores lawsuit about our friends in the NFL and the numbers that are so awkward—I won't pursue that now.

But what I will say is: Can we work together? Because issues still exist. Can we teach our children the goodness of the history of a people? And then, can we take the next step to work with institutions who have not yet fulfilled the beginning of this book that says we organize to create a more perfect Union, and the 13th and 14th Amendment which rids of us of all discrimination?

Mr. Speaker, I hope we can do that for this month, and I hope we can do that forever.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of this body and the Committee on the Judiciary, I am pleased to join my colleagues in this Special Order marking the anniversary of the passage on December 6, 1865 of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution and celebrating the passage of the 14th and 15th Amendments, known as the Civil Rights Amendments.

I thank my colleague, Congressman BUTTERFIELD, for anchoring this important Special Order and am remembering our late colleague, John Lewis, a great and beloved man, who risked and gave his life to make real the promise of those amendments.

The 13th Amendment, the first of the three great Civil War Amendments, was passed in 1865 and abolished slavery.

The 14th Amendment conferred citizenship on the newly emancipated slaves, and the 15th Amendment prohibited abridging the right to vote on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Taken together, these amendments were intended and have the effect of making former slaves, and their descendants, full and equal members of the political community known as the United States of America.

By 1861, when the Civil War broke out, more than 4 million people (nearly all of them of African descent) were enslaved in 15 southern and border states.

By 1862, President Abraham Lincoln came to believe firmly that emancipating enslaved people in the South would help the Union crush the Confederate rebellion and win the Civil War.

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which took effect in 1863, announced that all enslaved people held in the states ''then in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.''

But the Emancipation Proclamation in itself did not end slavery in the United States, as it only applied to the 11 Confederate states then at war against the Union, and only to the portion of those states not already under Union control.

To make emancipation permanent would take a constitutional amendment abolishing the institution of slavery itself.

In April 1864, the U.S. Senate passed a proposed amendment banning slavery with the necessary two-thirds majority but it faltered in the House of Representatives, as more and more Democrats refused to support it.

When Congress reconvened in December 1864, the emboldened Republicans put the proposed amendment up for vote again and Lincoln threw himself in the legislative process, inviting individual representatives to his office to discuss the amendment and putting pressure on border-state Unionists (who had previously opposed it) to change their position.

Lincoln was committed to the passage of the 13th Amendment, telling his allies to ''see what is before you, to focus on the most important thing; that this Amendment protects the slaves now born and in the United States, but settles the question for all time for the millions yet to be born.''

He authorized his allies to entice House members with plum positions and other inducements, reportedly telling them: ''I leave it to you to determine how it shall be done; but remember that I am President of the United States, clothed with immense power, and I expect you to procure those votes.''

On January 31, 1865, the House of Representatives passed the proposed amendment with a vote of 119–56, just over the required two-thirds majority, and the following day, Lincoln approved a joint resolution of Congress submitting it to the state legislatures for ratification.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is the world's only superpower and boasts the largest economy in the history of the world and for many years was the world's indispensable nation and the example that all aspiring democracies wished to emulate.

But at the same time, this nation has also been home to many searing instances of social unrest resulting from racial injustices, as we witnessed this year on the streets of big cities and small towns in urban and rural communities.

We saw Americans, by the millions across the country, coming from all races and ages, engaging in what the late John Lewis called ''good trouble'' by protesting and demanding an end to the systemic racial inequality in our criminal justice system that too often victimizes and disproportionately treats black Americans worse, *ceteris paribus*, when it comes to suspicion, apprehension, arrest, detention, trial, sentencing, and incarceration.

While the brutal deaths of George Floyd in Minneapolis and Breonna Taylor in Louisville shocked the conscience of the nation, most black Americans will tell you what they experienced is not new, but has been occurring for generations, if not centuries.

What is critically important to understand is that the instances of brutal and unfair treatment the nation has witnessed this year cannot be attributed to the proverbial few ''bad apples in the bushel'' but is instead the foreseeable consequence of systemic racism and racial inequality in the system.

Not just the criminal justice system, but the health care system, the economic system, and the educational system to name the most glaring examples.

To find our way out of this dark time, we need to understand how it came to be.

That is why in January 2019, I introduced H.R. 40, which establishes a commission to examine slavery and discrimination in the colonies and the United States from 1619 to the present and recommend appropriate remedies.

Among other requirements, the commission shall identify the role of federal and state governments in supporting the institution of slavery; forms of discrimination in the public and private sectors against freed slaves and their descendants; and lingering negative effects of slavery on living African-Americans and society.

Official slavery ended with the Civil War and ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment.

But unofficial slavery was continued with the new institution of sharecrop farming, a criminal justice system that would press convicts into work once done by slaves, and labor policies that dictated income for work done based upon skin color.

And, of course, all of this was reinforced by the systematic disenfranchisement of black Americans, the ''discrete and insular minority'' excluded from ''those political processes ordinarily to be relied upon to protect'' them, to quote Chief Justice Hughes' famous Carolene Products Footnote 4.

For these reasons, the history of the United States is intertwined with the history of enslaved Africans in the Americas.

There is blood and there are tears, but there is also redemption and reconciliation.

But to get there, we must have the complete truth and lay our history bare.

It is the light that sheds the way to the more perfect union all Americans want.

The Commission created and empowered by H.R. 40 is a necessary first step in that effort to get to truth and reconciliation about the Original Sin of American Slavery that is necessary to light the way to the beloved community we all seek.

Finally, I join all my colleagues in pointing out that the most fitting and proper means of paying tribute to the beloved John Lewis's extraordinary life is for the Senate to immediately take up and pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, landmark legislation to protect the precious right to vote for all persons and to ensure that our democracy has the tools needed to remain strong.

Mr. Speaker, this February we recognize and celebrate the 40th commemoration of Black History Month.

This month we celebrate the contributions of African Americans to the history of our great nation, and pay tribute to trailblazers, pioneers, heroes, and leaders like the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama; Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall; U.S. Senator Blanche Kelso Bruce; U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan; U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland; Astronauts Dr. Guion Stewart Bluford, Jr., and Mae C. Jemison; activists, intellectuals, authors, and artists like Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, James Baldwin, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks just to name a few of the countless number of well-

known and unsung heroes whose contributions have helped our nation become a more perfect union.

The history of the United States has been marked by the great contributions of African American activists, leaders, writers, and artists.

As a member of Congress, I know that I stand on the shoulders of giants whose struggles and triumphs made it possible for me to stand here today and continue the fight for equality, justice, and progress for all, regardless of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

The greatest of these giants to me are Mrs. Ivalita ''Ivy'' Jackson, a vocational nurse, and Mr. Ezra A. Jackson, one of the first African-Americans to succeed in the comic book publishing business.

They were my beloved parents and they taught me the value of education, hard work, discipline, perseverance, and caring for others.

And I am continually inspired by Dr. Elwyn Lee, my husband and the first tenured African American law professor at the University of Houston.

Mr. Speaker, I particularly wish to acknowledge the contributions of African American veterans in defending from foreign aggressors and who by their courageous examples helped transform our nation from a segregated society to a nation committed to the never ending challenge of perfecting our union.

A few years ago about this time, I was honored to join my colleagues, the late Congressman John Lewis and former Congressman Charles Rangel, a Korean War veteran, in paying tribute to surviving members of the Tuskegee Airmen and the 555th Parachute Infantry, the famed ''Triple Nickels'' at a moving ceremony sponsored by the U.S. Army commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The success of the Tuskegee Airmen in escorting bombers during World War II—achieving one of the lowest loss records of all the escort fighter groups, and being in constant demand for their services by the allied bomber units—is a record unmatched by any other fighter group.

So impressive and astounding were the feats of the Tuskegee Airmen that in 1948, it helped persuade President Harry Truman to issue his famous Executive Order No. 9981, which directed equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the United States Armed Forces and led to the end of racial segregation in the U.S. military forces.

It is a source of enormous and enduring pride that my father-in-law, Phillip Ferguson Lee, was one of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Clearly, what began as an experiment to determine whether ''colored'' soldiers' were capable of operating expensive and complex combat aircraft ended as an unqualified success based on the experience of the Tuskegee Airmen, whose record included 261 aircraft destroyed, 148 aircraft damaged, 15,553 combat sorties and 1,578 missions over Italy and North Africa.

They also destroyed or damaged over 950 units of ground transportation and escorted more than 200 bombing missions. They proved that ''the antidote to racism is excellence in performance,'' as retired Lt. Col. Herbert Carter once remarked.

Mr. Speaker, Black History Month is also a time to remember many pioneering women like U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm; activists Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks; astronaut Mae C. Jemison; mathematicians like Katherine G. Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson; authors Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks; all of whom have each in their own way, whether through courageous activism, cultural or intellectual contributions, or artistic creativity, forged social and political change, and forever changed our great Nation for the better.

It is also fitting, Mr. Speaker, that in addition to those national leaders whose contributions have made our nation better, we honor also those who have and are making a difference in their local communities.

In my home city of Houston, there are numerous great men and women. They are great because they have heeded the counsel of Dr. King who said: ''Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.''

By that measure, I wish to pay tribute to some of the great men and women of Houston some of whom who have passed:

Rev. F.N. Williams, Sr.
Rev. Dr. S.J. Gilbert, Sr.
Rev. Crawford W. Kimble
Rev. Eldridge Stanley Branch
Rev. William A. Lawson
Rev. Johnnie Jeffery ''J.J.'' Robeson
Mr. John Bland
Ms. Ruby Moseley
Ms. Dorothy Hubbard
Ms. Doris Hubbard
Ms. Willie Bell Boone
Ms. Holly HogoBrooks
Mr. Deloyd Parker
Ms. Lenora ''Doll'' Carter
Mr. Gerald Womack

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us pay tribute to those who have come before us, and pay forward to future generations by addressing what is the number one issue for African American families, and all American families today: preserving the American promise of economic opportunity for all.

Our immediate focus must be job creation, and enacting legislation that will foster and lay the foundation for today's and tomorrow's generation of groundbreaking activists, leaders, scientists, writers and artists to continue contributing to the greatness of America.

We must continue to preserve the American Dream for all.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in celebration of the heroic and historic acts of African Americans and their indispensable contributions to this great Nation.

It is through our work in creating possibilities for today and future generations that we best honor the accomplishments and legacy of our predecessors.

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

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. OWENS. Before I get started, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), who serves on the Education and Labor Committee.

FREE SPEECH AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah for yielding to me today.

Mr. Speaker, I was encouraged to see George Washington University, GW, reverse its decision to censor posters highlighting the human rights abuses of the Chinese Communist Party, CCP.

The Olympic-themed posters bring attention to the CCP for its oppression of Tibetans and Uyghurs. They also denounce China for undermining democracy in Hong Kong, implementing an authoritarian surveillance system over its own people, and for its dishonesty in the handling of COVID–19.

Calling these posters racist is absurd and a dishonest attempt to pander to an authoritarian regime housing ethnic minorities in modern-day concentration camps. They aren't promoting racism but decrying it.

Allowing students to stand up for human rights and democratic values on college campuses should not be a point of controversy.

Condemning ethnic cleansing and genocide is not controversial. Condemning the erosion of privacy is not controversial. Condemning the destruction of democratic values is not controversial. In fact, condemning these crimes should be something that unites all Americans.

The individuals who hung these posters are braver than many pundits and politicians who are turning a blind eye to the CCP's atrocities. We should celebrate their courage, not punish it.

Too many universities tout free speech policies but punish those with different viewpoints for simply speaking their mind. We must allow our colleges and university campuses to be places that welcome free speech and an open exchange of ideas.

Speech meant to incite violence is never acceptable, and I condemn racism in all its forms. Yet, we must ensure that we aren't letting politically motivated groups cry wolf whenever someone says something they may not want to hear or speaks up for the millions who cannot do so themselves.

If cries of racism can be weaponized to silence political opponents, then our country will be ruled by the diktats of political correctness and a fear of censorship instead of rational free thought. If we want to stay a self-governed and free country, then we must protect our most fundamental rights, and this includes the freedom of speech.

Colleges and universities must protect the free and open exchange of ideas. Silencing students or professors for challenging the status quo makes university officials no better than the Chinese Communist Party.

In the end, GW made the right decision and should be commended for it. I hope other schools will learn from this and support free speech from the start.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. FOXX again for her great leadership.

Next, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

□ 1330

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAYMOND G. ''JERRY'' STRAWBRIDGE

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a model American and South Carolinian, and let me add, a very good friend of mine, Raymond G. ''Jerry'' Strawbridge, who passed away Monday.

Jerry was chairman of the Saluda County Council, and epitomized what it meant to be a public servant and a true patriot, as he did so much to serve his church, his country, Saluda County, South Carolina's Third District, the State of South Carolina, and our great Nation.

Jerry was a family man, a business owner, a veteran, chairman of Saluda County Republican Party for 8 years, chairman of Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority, a 32nd degree Mason, and very involved in his lodge. He was also a sergeant major for the South Carolina National Guard where he served for 40 years, and that is quite a feat.

His accolades include: National Defense Service Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, U.S. Meritorious Service Medal, and the South Carolina Guardsman Retirement Medal.

My heart goes out to Jerry's wife, Denise, and his children and grandchildren. I am praying for them as they mourn the loss of a truly incredible person who served so well. He will surely be missed by his community and his legacy will continue to have an impact on Saluda County and South Carolina for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, during these times we are comforted by Scripture and the words of Jesus. ''Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.''

May God bless the Strawbridge family, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative DUNCAN for his comments. I appreciate that very much.

Today I rise in honor of Black History Month and the everlasting resiliency of patriots in the Black community who have risen above circumstance to live the American Dream.

As we get started, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY), my really good friend.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman so much for yielding. It is just an honor to serve with you and also to serve with our great colleague, BYRON DONALDS from Florida. I thank the gentleman for hosting this very important Special Order to celebrate and recognize Black History Month.

Upstate New York has a strong abolitionist history, and I am honored to highlight the stories of our region's abolitionist heroes today. These individuals played a pivotal role in bringing our Nation's founding ideals to fruition following the brutal failure of slavery in our early days.

Not many people outside New York realize just how rich our history is within the abolitionist movement. Fortunately, I had the opportunity to visit a few of these sites with Congressman OWENS back in October which we later recalled and memorialized on the House floor in January in another Special Order. Many of these sites, such as the Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark and the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum, are located in the heart of my district in Peterboro, Madison County, New York.

The Gerrit Smith Estate is named for Gerrit Smith, a wealthy New York landowner and one-term Member of the House of Representatives, who, coincidentally, represented the 26th District, as I do now. Smith put his wealth to good use by fervently supporting the abolitionist movement. He truly put his wealth behind his beliefs and promoted the rights of individuals to have life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

For nearly 40 years, Smith dedicated his whole heart to the abolitionist cause. Other notable abolitionist heroes such as Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, all made their way to the Smith Estate at one point or another to participate in Smith's good work.

Peterboro, New York, became a haven for fugitive slaves because of Gerrit Smith's courage and undying vision for a better, more equal America. Gerrit donated much of his farmland to escaped slaves so they could become self-sufficient and avoid slave hunters. Gerrit Smith also supported Frederick Douglass' newspaper, The North Star, and gave him what would be the equivalent of about $7,000 a month in today's dollars, and kept that newspaper going to inform the public about what was happening in the abolitionist movement.

His home became a stop along the famous underground railroad where people would come for shelter, food, and support. Hundreds of enslaved people found their way to freedom because of Gerrit Smith's valor and generosity. Down the road in Peterboro you will find the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum. This fixture of the community is located in the same building where the first-ever meeting of the New York State Anti-Slavery Society was held in 1835.

Because of their importance to the movement, both the Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark and the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum now are listed as 2 of the 22 sites on the New York State Underground Railroad Heritage Trail.

The abolitionist Reverend Henry Highland Garnet once told an old friend by the name of Frederick Douglass: There are two places where slaveholders cannot come. There is Heaven, and there is Peterboro. We are so proud to have Peterboro in our district.

I am so honored that I got to stand there below that sign with my great colleague, BURGESS OWENS from Utah. Gerrit Smith and the New York State Anti-Slavery Society surely are to thank for that. We also want to celebrate Black History Month and recognize the many accomplishments of so many Black Americans.

Another one of them just outside my district is Harriet Tubman, where she spent a lot of her later years, a woman who lived to be 92; and you have heard Congressman OWENS talk about her and me as well in Special Orders, but truly a remarkable person. We stood in awe of Harriet Tubman's accomplishments, her tenacity. She was strong, she was compassionate, she was courageous, she was kind. And not only did she serve as a conductor of the underground railroad, among so many accomplishments, she also freed countless slaves. She worked as a scout, a spy, and a nurse in the Union Army. At her core, Harriet Tubman was a woman of such deep compassion and care for everyone around her.

In her later years, she helped so many who came through her home in Auburn, New York, providing them shelter, medical attention, and just undying love. Despite the obstacles she faced, Harriet Tubman never gave up nor was she ever consumed by anger or cynicism. She led with integrity and was incredibly resilient. She is a tremendous role model for all of us today.

As I have said before, the way to improve our Nation is not to cynically tear down our institutions or erase and rewrite our history, but rather to take inspiration from the ideals of our Founding, and those who persevered with great courage to fight for a better future against so much that was against them.

People like Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman are just great Americans, tremendous Americans and part of our history, and so many contributed to their ability to achieve the goals to finally eradicating slavery and bringing us where we are today in celebrating Black History Month for such a long period of time in our country, as Congressman CLYBURN mentioned earlier.

I just want to thank Congressman DONALDS and also Congressman OWENS for their great leadership on behalf of our side of the aisle, and also just on representing and protecting our institutions of freedom, human rights, individual rights, and all that they do as great Americans. I am honored to be able to be here with them today. I thank you so much again for your great generosity.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman. I really appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS), my great friend.

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my good friend, Congressman BURGESS OWENS, from the great State of Utah in celebration of Black History Month.

I, like Mr. OWENS, stand on the shoulders of Black Americans who came before us despite hurdles and glass ceilings, but still rose to the Halls of Congress, or to the highest echelon of our American history.

You see, there are so many pioneers who came before us, some of us who are still contemporary pioneers, Mr. Speaker. People like Majority Whip CLYBURN of South Carolina, Senator TIM SCOTT, the late Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, Justice Clarence Thomas and Justice Thurgood Marshall, Frederick Douglass, Madam C.J. Walker, Booker T. Washington, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr. Ben Carson. I could go on and on.

You see, I stand here today as the first Black person elected as a Representative of Florida's 19th Congressional District. I am the third-ever Black Republican ever elected in the great State of Florida.

During Black History Month, we pay homage to all of those who came before us and those who continue to empower the lives throughout the Black community in America. You see, Black history is American history, and even though today we might have a lot of issues about the plight of Black people in our great country, it is without question that the advances, many of which have come in America, have been through the hands, the intellect, the ingenuity, the innovation of Black Americans who have contributed to the great fabric of our country.

It really makes the contributions of Black Americans more than just for the Black community. It makes it for all of America. It is what helps the red, white, and blue that we all revere, actually be meaningful because of all of the different stains and pains, blood that was shed throughout the pathway of Black Americans to still be able to add and to still be counted for great contributions to our Nation.

In 2022, Mr. OWENS and I stand here today as free men, both reaching the American Dream and dedicated to ensuring that future generations of Black Americans can achieve the same success that we have, and to add to that, to achieve even more success that we could even dream was possible even in 2022.

Regardless of what anybody says, America is not a racist Nation. I mean, look around. While we may have so many differences, and we might not always agree on a lot of things when it comes to politics or economics, obviously, sports, religion, et cetera, we all stand here together, all colors, all creeds, and all convictions here in the people's House, proving that we are a nation that has achieved life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all people in this great Nation.

The last comment I will make, Mr. Speaker, is that, obviously, the month of February is when we celebrate Black History Month, but we are at a time in America where Black history in our schools should not just be confined to the month of February. We are at a time in the United States where all of the contributions of Black Americans and all of the pain that has been felt by Black Americans should be taught and conveyed throughout all of our halls of academia, whether you are talking about middle schools, high schools, or even higher education.

This month is exceptionally special to me because I do understand that the sacrifices that my mother and my family made for me throughout the years and all of the things that they believed that I could possibly achieve have culminated in me standing here on this floor even making these comments about the rich history of Black Americans to the United States.

So it is with great humility, and it is with great appreciation for all of those who have come before me and, Mr. Speaker, to all the Black Americans who served with me today, that I just want to wish everybody a wonderful Black History Month, and also for everybody to reflect on how much we have gained here as a people in these United States.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, on that note, I would like to highlight something that I want those who are listening to be aware of. As you listen to those of the Republican Party, those who believe in these conservative values of love of God, country, family, that as we talk about our history, as we talk about things we are doing and have overcome and achieved, notice the sense of hope that we bring to the message. Notice the sense of unity.

Yes, we look back on the past because we have a lot to learn from the past. But we look at the past in the way of what we have achieved and how far we have come, not where we are today. And I want Americans to think through the last couple of years. Are we tired of being afraid? Are we tired of being angry? Are we tired of fear? Listen to the messages of our great history and you will see that this country is a country of second chances. This country is a place where you come here no matter what language you speak, how poor you are, you have the opportunity to live your own American Dream.

It was the Marxist, Karl Marx, who said it very simply. ''The first battlefield is to rewrite history.'' Why would the Marxists—why would the hard left want to steal our history, change our history? Because within our great American history we have pride in our past, appreciation for our present, and a vision for our future.

We are American people and it is within our DNA that we are hopeful. And only through the nuances of changing history which, by the way, has been done since the 1940s by the Progressive, ''father of the public school system,'' John Dewey, that this change has been happening.

□ 1345

We have talked about the success of Tulsa, a remarkable success. Just a few decades after the Civil War ended, you have this environment of success where people could live the American Dream, a little town where 600 businesses were established with over 50 millionaires, and six of them had their own private planes. It was started back in the early 1900s.

In 1921, that little community was destroyed within 12 hours, not by the American people, but by Southern Democratic KKK members. That is the nuance.

We have been fighting against evil for a long time, and we will continue to. But let's just make sure that we, the American people, know who the fight is against. It is not against those of us who believe in God, country, and family, a free market, the belief in looking at each other from the inside out versus the outside in.

We are friends, no matter what side of the aisle we sit on, those of us who believe in our American way, those of us who see our future as coming closer together, not dividing us. We are on the same team, my friends. Let's remember that.

I am going to read the introduction that I have from one of the books I wrote earlier: For those who grew up in the Deep South, in the days of the KKK and Jim Crow segregation, pride in community was not founded on the embellishment of opportunities lost due to racism. Instead, it was built on the highlighting of the great accomplishments achieved, in spite of the obstacles.

The can-do outlook that prevailed in the past generations cleared the pathway to prosperity and celebrated creative, courageous, and self-respecting community determined not to be held back. That community succeeded in their quest. That community was my dad's generation and the ones before that who believed in this great country, who went to war to fight for this great country.

I am going to talk about a couple of my heroes. I have had a chance, thank goodness, growing up in the Deep South in the days of KKK, Jim Crow, and segregation, in Tallahassee, Florida, to be raised by a community who was proud of who they were, a community whose parents and teachers collaborated, talked, and respected each other, because the goal at the end of the day was their children would go out and give their community a good name, give their family a good name, and represent the race that could achieve anything by overcoming obstacles.

My hero is not an NFL player, a basketball player, or some person on TV,

who I had no idea who they were, what their character was. My hero was someone who I saw the mistakes that he made. He was not a perfect person, but he was a great father. That is my dad, Clarence Burgess Owens, Sr.

Dad represented that generation very, very well. By the way, for those who don't know, which I am sure most don't because of the history that has been changed, my race has never been a race of hopeless, hapless people waiting for White people to show up and give us freedom. We got freedom through the fight in which we participated in, the Civil War. There was no race that appreciated that freedom more than my race.

For generations from that point on, we have had within our DNA a desire for freedom, the conservative values of home, family, free market, and faith. I grew up in a home that taught that. It was a good experience.

My dad was raised by parents who did not finish high school. Well, my grandmother did finish high school when she was 50 years old. My grandfather dropped out when he was in the third grade. They were businessowners.

But let me tell you how it works out in America, because every generation looks to help the next generation stand on their shoulders. In my community, that was the goal. In my family, that is exactly what happened.

From those humble beginnings, those parents of four children that did not have an education, a formal education, that next generation were kids that had nothing but good education. My dad got his Ph.D. at Ohio State in agronomy. My uncle got his Ph.D. in economics at Ohio State in 1950 to 1951, the days of the KKK, Jim Crow, and segregation.

I had an uncle who was an engineer. He was part time and decided he wanted to fly planes. In the early 1960s, this was something that no one ever did, and that is he purchased his own private plane, a single prop. He would take mail from Wichita Falls, Texas, to Chicago. Who did that in 1960–61?

Well, as a 12-year-old, I had a chance to experience and understand the opportunity to dream past my limitations or perceived limitations. One time, he flew out to Tallahassee, where I had a chance to fly, for the first time, in this private plane.

I learned something through that process. That is what that generation did. They wanted to make sure that every generation was getting more educated, more critical thinking skills.

We went up. For those who don't understand what a stall is, it is important to know what a stall is before you stall. He took us up and stalled the airplane. He saw that I was panicking. He grabbed the control and explained airplane lift. To this day, I can explain to you exactly what airplane lift looks like and how it feels.

That was a generation that overcame.

Now, my dad grew up in Texas and went to war. He was in the Philippines, and this is in Japan, where he finished up. Again, he received some documentation because he ended up coming back from war to Texas. In those days, in Texas, because of Jim Crow laws, he could not get his postgraduate degree.

I ran across a box of letters after dad passed away, something he never talked about, a box of rejection letters from colleges across our country, particularly the Northeast, that had rejected his application to get his postgraduate degree. I knew it was because of race. I could see it in the applications, in the amount of letters I saw in this particular box.

What is interesting about that generation, about dad, is he never complained about it. He never pulled it out. He never said: ''Well, this is what they did to me.'' That was a generation that took rejection and took obstacles as motivation. That was a generation that said: If you don't believe me, sit back and watch. I am going to run harder, study harder, work harder. I will prove that I will command your respect because I do believe in meritocracy—which they did.

He continued that process and got into Ohio State. Five years after graduating from Ohio State with his Ph.D., we were living in Liberia, Africa. He was doing research there.

Dad went on to teach for 40 years at Florida A&M. He was a researcher. He was a farmer for 35 of those years. He was a remarkable mentor, and he believed that our race, if given the opportunity of education, could achieve and move forward.

Because he understood his past, because he was taught at that time the greatness of people like Booker T. Washington and the many people I am going to talk about in the next few minutes, he appreciated the progress that he had made and his family had made at that point, and he saw such a great future for those that were coming behind him.

I have a granddad who was a third grade dropout, a dad who was a college professor, and his son, who now stands before you in Congress.

This country, there is nothing like it. It is time for us to understand: If you want a second chance, if you want to dream big, if you want to overcome, this is the place. And guess what? You will have help from every corner of this United States. Every culture, every religion, every color, it does not matter. Because in this country, we teach ourselves to look at each other from the inside out, not the outside in.

I refuse, as long as I stand in Congress, to allow the left to demean my race's past. I refuse to allow the left to narrate that my race was one that was hopeless, hapless, could not achieve, and sit back and look at nothing but the negative that happened. By the way, negative happens to every race, every culture, every person. It is life. It is what you do with it that makes us Americans.

Americans never give up on our dream. We believe in something called meritocracy. We do not believe we should give this power over to any government power. We believe we should live our lives and move forward.

If you think about the person who would appreciate, more than anyone else in this room, a full glass of water, that person would be the one who has not had a drop in days. That first drop would be like heaven.

That was the Black community when freedom was given to us, a race that for generations never thought freedom was a possibility, a race that sent their sons to war, that volunteered because they understood the power of freedom.

They understood the power of having their faith, that they could worship without someone beating them up or hanging them, one that believed in family because there was no guarantee in those days that a family would ever stay united.

They believed in an idea called ownership of property, free market, to be creative, to get paid for your own work, your own effort, your own risk, and the benefit of education.

There was no race in our country that understood and believed and appreciated this more than mine did. There is a reason why, in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, it was the Black community that led our country in the growth of the middle class. Many graduated from college. Many committed to marriage. Many became entrepreneurs.

There is a reason why, growing up in Tallahassee, I could look around in that community, not seeing a Black America, not associating with White America until I was 16 years old, and seeing nothing but business ownership everywhere, whether it be Baker's Pharmacy, Perkins Service Station, Speed's Grocery Store, FAMU Hospital with Black nurses and Black doctors. There were engineers, lawyers, and teachers. And the message was very simple: You live in America, young man. You can achieve anything you want to if you commit to those tenets that make our country great: faith, family, the free market, and education.

We have had our representation of brave warriors throughout history, as we do today, frontline warriors who serve in the military, that go out every single day, that thin blue line to protect us from evil.

Why is their contribution so important? They believe in something very simple, and it is something from Booker T. Washington: You do not have to beg or ask for respect when you can command respect. You do not have to beg or demand somebody else's property in a free country when you can earn it yourself.

How do we do that? Through meritocracy. How do we do that? By showing courage when others might feel fear.

Ask the all-Black Army, the 54th Army Regiment from Massachusetts, during the Civil War, Freedmen who volunteered to go south to fight a battle to free fellow members of their

race. Or ask the 1869 Buffalo Soldiers or the World War II unit that went to Germany called the Black Rattlers, who the German called the Hellfighters, because they had so much respect for the way they fought and what they did.

My race has stood on the shoulders of the great men and women I am going to talk about the next few minutes. One of the greatest, I realized, after my dad had passed and after I did my homework, that that entire generation listened to and built their lives around was Booker T. Washington. He was a former slave who started Tuskegee University in 1881.

By 1905, it was creating more self-made millionaires than Harvard, Yale, and Princeton combined. Why? Because he was teaching those young people coming through not just to master one trade but two. Yes, work harder than the next guy. Yes, don't complain about the work. Don't complain about what is asked of you. Don't do what is being taught to our kids today where kids say: Well, I have to work harder than the other guy because of my color.

No, you have to work harder than the other guy because that is what America is about. You outrun, you outwork, you out-study. You find your greatest potential by what you put into your efforts. You don't lower your standards because somebody else has lowered theirs. We don't do that. That is not America.

□ 1400

Black History Month is dedicated to the heroes who rose above slavery, segregation, and racism to champion life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for future generations. Because of their courage, Black Americans have made enormous strides to shape the soul of our Nation.

From a childhood in the segregated South to serving in Congress, I am inspired by the tenacity of giants like Charles R. Drew, Robert Smalls, J. Mayo Williams, Bessie Coleman, Dr. Mildred Jefferson, Elizabeth Freeman, Sergeant William Carney, and so many others who fought for the founding ideals of liberty and equality.

I would like to share with you a few of my heroes who have had a tremendous impact on my life and the lives of countless, countless Americans. These, by the way, are Americans who were proud to be Americans. These are Americans proud of their race. These are Americans who saw their kids living a much better dream, and the last thing they would do is tell them to stop dreaming. The last thing they would do is tell them the obstacles are too great for them. The last thing they would do is say these White people are going to keep you from achieving your dreams. No, we were taught it didn't matter who it was or what it was, that we had within us the ability to overcome all obstacles.

Dr. Charles R. Drew was born in 1904 here in D.C., breaking the barriers throughout his life of a racially divided America to become the most influential scientist of the 20th century. It was during his research into banked blood at Columbia University that his ultimate destiny in serving mankind was shaped.

As World War II created an important need for procedures to preserve blood, and injuries seen by physicians became more severe, the need for blood plasma intensified. As he was the leading authority in the field, Dr. Charles Drew was selected as a full-time medical director of the Blood for Britain project, where he supervised the successful collection of thousands of pints of vital plasma for the British, saving countless lives.

In February 1941, Drew was appointed the director of the first American Red Cross Blood Bank and was put in charge of blood for the use of the U.S. Army and Navy. Dr. Drew returned to Freedmen's Hospital and Howard University, where he served as a surgeon and professor of medicine from 1942 until he passed away in 1950.

Robert Smalls was born into slavery in Beaumont, South Carolina, and gained his freedom daringly and courageously. He commandeered a Confederate cargo ship and sailed the vessel into Union waters before being captured, freeing himself, his crew, and their families.

His action that day helped persuade Lincoln to accept Black soldiers in the Union Army. He went on to serve in the Union's Navy and was eventually elected to Congress.

Elijah Abel was one of the early leaders in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, a popular missionary who, as a Black man, lived the restored gospel that was intended for Black and White, bond and free.

Born in Texas in 1892, Bessie Coleman, also known as Queen Bess or Brave Bessie, was the first Black female pilot. Her mother, Susan, was a maid; her father, George, was a sharecropper of Native American and African-American descent. Bessie grew up helping her mother pick cotton and wash laundry to earn extra money.

By the time she was 18, she had saved money to attend the Colored Agricultural and Normal University, now Langston University, in Langston, Oklahoma. She dropped out of college after only one semester because she could not afford to attend.

Bessie's brothers, who both served in the military in World War I, came home with stories of their time in France, often teasing her that French women could learn how to fly airplanes, but Bessie couldn't. Because of this, she applied to many flight schools across the country, but no school would take her because she was a Black woman.

With no opportunities in America, Bessie saved and saved, and finally obtained scholarships to travel to France to flight school. She even had to take a French class at night to complete her flight school application.

After finishing flight school, she toured the country, giving speeches, showing videos of her air tricks to earn money, refusing to speak anywhere that was segregated or that discriminated against Black Americans.

In 1922, she performed the first public flight by an African-American woman. I want you to keep in mind these dates; these are the dates the other side of the aisle would like to tell you we were hopeless, hapless, and doing nothing. No, we were doing just like every other race in this country has, every other culture that has overcome obstacles. We had great vision, and we had great courage, and we succeeded big time.

She became more popular both in the United States and Europe. She toured the country giving flight lessons, performing in-flight shows, and she encouraged women to learn how to fly, becoming famous in America and Europe as a star pilot.

On April 30, 1926, Bessie passed away in a tragic plane crash. She remains an inspiration to untold millions around the world.

Madam C. J. Walker was born in 1867 on a Delta, Louisiana, plantation, where her parents had been enslaved before the end of the Civil War.

She and her sister grew cotton in Delta and Vicksburg, Mississippi, and survived by working in the fields. To escape abuse from her brother-in-law, she married Moses McWilliams at the age of 14.

Following the death of her husband, she moved to St. Louis to join her four brothers, who had become barbers. With just $1.50 a day, she managed to save enough money to send her daughter to public school.

As a talented entrepreneur with a skill for self-promotion, she often said, ''I got my start by giving myself a start.'' How about that one? ''I got my start by giving myself a start.''

She was the first self-made woman millionaire in America, earning her fortune through her business empire, a line of hair care products especially for Black women she created after experiencing hair loss. The self-made millionaire used her fortune to fund scholarships for women and donated large parts of her wealth to charity.

Elizabeth Freeman, better known as Mum Bett, was born into slavery but became the first slave to be freed under the Massachusetts Constitution. Less than 1 year after the adoption of the Massachusetts State Constitution, she filed a lawsuit for freedom, marking the beginning of a group of freedom suits that would ultimately lead the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to outlaw slavery in their State. Despite not knowing how to read or write, she was clever enough, strategic enough, determined enough to secure her freedom.

She sought out the help of a local lawyer after being inspired by the constitutional provision that all men were created free and equal. They won the case, implicitly ending slavery in the State of Massachusetts.

After securing her freedom, she became a paid domestic worker and also made a living as a prominent healer, midwife, and nurse. After 20 years, she was able to buy her own house, where she lived with her children. She passed away December 28, 1829, at the age of 85.

It is amazing, these remarkable men and women who figured out the American Dream could work for them if they never gave up on it.

J. Mayo Williams was one of the first Black professional football players in the 1920s and went on to become one of the most successful record producers in the 1930s and 1940s. He was the only man to be inducted into both the National Football Hall of Fame and the Blues Hall of Fame.

Senator Hiram Revels of Mississippi in 1870 became the first African American to serve in the U.S. Senate. As a member of the Republican Party, he challenged the social order and was an outspoken opponent against segregation, fighting for equality across racial lines.

Sergeant William Carney was the first Black Medal of Honor recipient. He kept the American flag held high. He was born in Norfolk, Virginia, in 1840 to a family of enslaved people. His parents bought their freedom and moved to Massachusetts. He enlisted in March 1863, and his unit, the 54th, which included two sons of abolitionist Frederick Douglass, headed down to South Carolina.

By the way, the South Carolina Confederate President had made note that any Black soldier caught would be instantly hung. This is what these men knew and understood, yet they marched south to fight for the freedom of their race and their country.

Carney's unit headed down to South Carolina. Their first combat mission was leading the charge on Fort Wagner in Charleston. Carney saw his unit's flag bearer was shot and killed and ran to catch the American flag he was holding. Carney, too, was shot during the battle, but he held that flag high and crawled up the hill toward the fort. He planted the flag in the sand and kept holding on even after he was rescued. He was the first to receive the Medal of Honor.

Let me tell you how acts like that of courage and knowing our history add up. As a seventh grader, I had the opportunity—I was chosen in my segregated high school, junior high school to raise the flag in the morning and to bring it down in the afternoon—an honor.

I remember walking to school every morning, early in the morning, and my friend, Spencer Williams, and I, we understood the nature of that flag, what it meant. My dad had come back from war, and how he felt about the flag, we were sure never to let that flag touch the ground.

That reverence for our flag allowed me to feel proud as an NFL player to hear the national anthem, to see that flag flying on the sideline, getting teary-eyed. I was living my dream in a country that allowed for the American Dream to be alive and well. To see how far we had come in the 1970s, from my upbringing in the 1960s, to see my teammates of all colors, backgrounds, and creeds, that we could care less about our background, color, or creed. We cared about the fact that we wanted to win. We looked inside for those who had the character, tenacity, discipline, courage to play hard so we could win. That is America. That is what we do.

Dr. Mildred Jefferson was the first Black woman to graduate from Harvard. She dedicated her life to protecting life at all stages. In 1951, Mildred became the first Black woman to graduate from Harvard Medical School. By the way, she was a pro-life advocate, just like my parents' generation was across the board. We believe in our children, believe in our history and their future, and believe they are a gift from God. My race would not stand for what has happened today as we watch my race being targeted for abortion. She also was the first woman employed as a general surgeon at the Boston University Medical Center.

Phillis Wheatley was born in West Africa and sold into slavery at the age of 7. Despite being enslaved, she learned to read and write. Her Massachusetts owners saw talent in her poetry skills and encouraged her. Phillis was brought by her owners to London, seeking to publish her work. She quickly rose to prominence when she published her book, ''Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral.''

She became a talented poet. Her poems became popular and even drew the praise of George Washington and poet Jupiter Hammon.

As I close this out, I can't say enough how proud I am to have been raised in the time I was raised, in the community I was raised in, in the race I was raised in, in a country that gave us all hope for a great future.

Because we lived so close to Florida A&M and had all these college kids getting engaged with civil rights, at the age of 12, I had the opportunity and decided to join them for a demonstration in front of Florida's State Theater. I was the youngest, but I witnessed what it was for young men and women to be disciplined, to be articulate, to be dressed well, to represent our race because it wasn't just in front of Florida's State Theater that we were making an impact; it was those watching across our country.

I want those who watch Martin Luther King's demonstrations again to notice something about that remarkable group of people. Notice the white shirts, the dark ties, the dress shoes. Notice the articulation of those who represented these great warriors, these leaders in freedom. Notice their discipline as they were attacked by dogs, fire hoses, people calling them names. Notice they did not retaliate. They did not go down and burn down buildings. They believed in the American people. They believed in this country, that they could command respect from around our country by being the best examples of what it was to be an American.

□ 1415

They were Christians, and it was Martin Luther King's view that by fighting in the way Christians could fight, nonviolently, they could earn the hearts of Americans across the country, and that is exactly what they did.

See, what Martin Luther King was doing in our Nation at that time was not just fighting against the Jim Crow laws that we talk about all the time, the evil that we saw in the south perpetrated on Black Americans by Democrats, by the way, at that time. It was more than just Jim Crow that we were fighting against. It was a narrative that Black Americans couldn't think, we weren't leaders, we weren't intelligent, we were unkempt, we were undisciplined, we were cowards. That was the narrative that we fought against.

That was the narrative that I faced when I left Tallahassee, Florida, with the goal of being a marine biology major and hearing through the grapevine from someone, a White person who had gone to Florida State, that I couldn't do it because Blacks could not think in those days. That was the thought.

Unlike today—I didn't say I'm going to give up, I am going to quit, I am going to sue. I was taught that when somebody tells you you can't, you prove them wrong. I spent the next 4 years at the University of Miami living in a library when I wasn't playing football. I wanted to prove that guy wrong. That was the generation I was raised by, thank goodness. That guy probably never knew probably that I succeeded, but I knew. My parents knew. And now I can tell you the story that that is the way our race was.

We have to fight this soft bigotry of low expectations, my friends. It is the worst of all evils. For people to wrap their arms around us, tell us how much they love us, and then tell us we can't. To wake up to news reports that we have an administration that, for the sake of equity, is going to give Black people access to crack pipes. That is equity? We now have the opportunity to get free crack pipes.

Equity is not lowering the standards. Equity, equality is raising the standards so high and telling every single child that can hear your voice that you can do it. That is equality. That is meritocracy. That is how we get respect. You don't beg for respect. You command respect.

In closing, I often say that Black American history is so rich because of the heroes who came before us.

These proud Black Americans broke countless barriers and have been lifelong inspirations for untold millions right here in America but also around the world.

Black History Month is an important celebration and recognition of American history, and I am humbled to stand on the shoulders of the great men and women who came before me.

I encourage all of you to read up on the true history of our Nation. The true history of our Nation is that we the people have done it. We the people with our good hearts established the Underground Railroad. I would not be here without their courage, their sacrifice, their vision.

I am so thankful to have been taught to love our great Nation, to love the people before us, that are with us, and those in the future that we will fight for.

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

IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, proud to be an American, proud to be a Member of this august body, proud to say that I am a free man, unbought, unbossed, and unafraid, proud to speak truth to power and to speak truth about power, proud that my family who loved me dearly instilled in me a belief that I could do anything that anyone else could do.

But they also taught me that there were obstacles in life, and that you will do some things, Alexander—that is my first name—because of, and you will do a good many things in spite of. And that has been the history of African Americans in this country. We have done a good many things because of people of good will who have befriended us, but we have also done a good many things in spite of people of ill will who have done all that they could to defeat us. But still we rise. Still we rise.

And today, I would like to discuss the topic: If not now, when? If not now, when? And this topic I embrace because of the Supreme Court of the United States of America and the possibility of a person of African ancestry who happens to be a female being appointed. If not now, when?

Let's examine the facts. This is Black History Month. This is Black history. And there are facts that are undeniable, indisputable, incorruptible.

Here are the facts, and here is why we find ourselves giving this speech today, making these statements today. Here are the facts. We have had a total number of Presidents of 45. Forty-five Presidents of the United States, one of color. One of color. Forty-five, one of color. Number of women, zero, of any color, any persuasion.

The Presidency of the United States has been an all-male institution, and for the most part, overwhelmingly so, it has been a White male institution. Just the facts. That is all.

Forty-five, one of color, zero women.

Now, there are some people who find it offensive to hear facts. They find these facts to somehow cause them some degree of consternation. My dear friends, can you imagine how these facts impact people of color? How they feel, knowing that we have had 45 Presidents, but only one of color? How these facts impact women? Forty-five Presidents, not one woman?

So if it causes you some degree of consternation, just imagine what it does to people who happen to be women. Forty-five men, zero women.

Now, let's take a look at the Senate. If not now, when? Let's look at the Senate. Total number of Senators in the United States of America. The total number is 1,944. 1,944 persons have had the honor, privilege, and pleasure of serving in the United States Senate. And it is a preeminent privilege, a superlative pleasure, and a splendiferous honor to serve in the United States Senate. 1,944 have had this great, singular honor.

Number of men: 1,886. 1,944 total Senators. Total men: 1,886.

Let's look at the number of men of color: 27. Number of women: 58. Number of White men: 1,857. The Senate has been around for over 200 years. For over 200 years—in fact, more than 230 years—we can say that the Senate has been overwhelmingly White and overwhelmingly White men.

There are some people who find it uncomfortable to hear these things said. Can you imagine how it must make these persons who have been excluded from the Senate, can you imagine how they feel? Can you imagine what they think when they would want to know that their children could have served in the Senate or had the opportunities that others have had? Yes, these are opportunities that have been denied some people.

I love my country. It means something to me to be an American. I believe that we ought to have liberty and justice for all. That is why I do all that I can to make it real. I want to make real the great and noble American ideals, government of the people, by the people, and for the people. That has got to include all of the people. All persons are created equal. That has got to include all persons.

Number of men: 1,886.

Now, the Senate of the United States of America is the institution that confirms persons who will be on the Supreme Court. So for over 200 years, we have had White men making the nominations—Presidents, remember 45, White men for the most part; one, Barack Obama, a recent addition to the august club—White men have been nominating. And White men have been nominating other White men. White men nominating other White men. 1,886 White men confirming other White men.

This is Black History Month. If not now, when will we tell the truth about what is going on?

Let's now look at the Supreme Court itself. The Supreme Court, the highest court in the land. First assembled in 1790, more than 200 years ago, more than 230 years ago, more than 232 years ago, 233-plus some months to be exact. Since this date when the Court was first assembled, we have had a total number of 115 justices. On the first court there were 6. Total number of 115 justices. The number of men: 110. 110 men. Number of women: 5. Number of Black women: Zero. 230-plus years, 115 persons nominated and approved to the Supreme Court, 110 of them men. Number of women: 5. Number of Black women: Zero.

If not now, when? When? We have had 200-plus years to appoint an African-American female to the Court. If not now, when?

Well, Congressman GREEN, Black women haven't been qualified. Really? If you believe that, there is nothing wrong with Congressman GREEN, there is something wrong with you.

□ 1430

Over this period of time, we have had 40 persons to serve on the Supreme Court who haven't been lawyers; 40 nonlawyers. Over this period of time, we have had justices who had no undergraduate degree; 5 no undergraduate degree; 40 not lawyers.

The rules apply as they are applied, and the rules have been flexible. By the way, there is no requirement that you be a lawyer to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, 40 nonlawyers, 5 persons with no degree at all; yet, not one Black woman on the Supreme Court. There are people who don't want this subject embraced. They don't want it discussed because they would like to kind of see this happen, somehow it just occurs and everybody lives happily ever after.

A lot of suffering has taken place to get to this point, and we ought not allow the truth about the consequences of being Black to escape us. It is just true that color has been a barrier to some people being on the Supreme Court—zero Black women, 115 Justices.

If not now, when? When will we have a President who has the courage to do what should have been done many years ago. I thank God for President Biden, a man of his word and a man of courage. Courage makes the difference.

There were great orators when Dr. King lived. There were persons who understood the issues as well as, and some who understood the issues better than Dr. King. What separated Dr. King from his contemporaries was his courage. He had the courage to do what others were afraid to do. They wouldn't speak up. They wouldn't speak out. Because they knew there were consequences for speaking up and speaking out. But Dr. King had the courage to look faith in the eye and say, I will do that which others could do, and some might even do better, but I will do it. He had the courage. So did John Lewis.

It was courage. This separates those who can do yet don't do from those who get things done.

President Biden made a commitment. President Biden is honoring his commitment. Others have appointed persons to the Court because of who they were. This woman who will be appointed is not going to be a person without credentials. She will be a person who is prepared. She will be a person who is going to serve us well, and she will be a person who will make a difference on a court that over 200 years has had 115 Justices, not one of them a Black woman; 115 Justices and not one a Black woman over some 230-plus years. If not now, when?

Now is the time. President Biden is the person, and we are the people who ought to want to see it happen. I don't have a candidate that I am pushing. I refuse to push a candidate, but I don't refuse to tell the truth about the circumstances that exists.

Mr. Speaker, just to make things perspicuously clear:

First assembled, 1790, Supreme Court.

Number of Justices on the first court, 6.

Total number of Justices since 1790, 115.

Total number of men, 110.

Five women, not one Black woman.

And let us not forget that the Senate of the United States of America has had a total of 1,944 persons, and 1,886 of them have been men; 45 Presidents, not one woman.

What we have here is the definition of the good old boys club. The good old boys. White men who took care of other White men in the sense that they were supporting each other. White men were nominating, White men were approving, and White men got the job. This is the good old boys club. But we are breaking up the good old boys club. Diversity is breaking up the good old boys club. And many of the good old boys are not happy. They like things the way they were when their club was exclusively White and male.

I don't support the good old boys club. I am a free man, unbought, unbossed, and unafraid. Speak truth to power and about power. This is about power. This is about the good old boys club that has had its own form of affirmative action, exclusionary affirmative action. Over 200 years of excluding, and you want to now complain that there is a possibility that one Black woman may be on the Court? And it upsets a good many persons to know that a Black woman may be on the Court.

Mr. Speaker, 230-plus years. If not now, when? And if not this President, which President? I love my country. I believe that change is that which we bring about. Yes, the arc of the moral universe bends toward justice, as Dr. King put it, but it bends toward justice because we put our hand on the arc of the moral universe and we use our strength and our might and our willpower to bend it toward justice. Not just for some, but for all. We, the people, includes all of the people.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to seeing this great day when there will be the first African-American female on the Court, and I assure you that I will never forget the President who made it happen. If not now, when?

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

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SHOT IN 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I heard my colleague on the other side of the aisle and I certainly appreciate his friendship and service.

I would take some disagreement with my celebrating the extent to which the President of the United States has announced beforehand the race and sex of the next Supreme Court Justice. And I would remind my friend, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, in general, the extent to which the current President rejected, filibustered, blocked Janice Rogers Brown—notably both Black and female—he did so because she wasn't the right kind of Black and female. You see, she was a conservative. She was not a leftist, a liberal.

So the current President blocked, when he was in the United States Senate, filibustered, fought, broke the rules and the traditions of the Senate to do it. By the way, Janice Rogers Brown, a Black female, qualified but conservative, judge. So he refused to let her advance. Why?

Now, the President of the United States is going out and lauding, praising his predetermination that the next Justice must be Black or female, undermining the nominee before even making the nomination.

I would note also that the President blocked, attacked, voted against Miguel Estrada. And did so, we know, for one reason. He was a Hispanic conservative. Now, how do we know that? We have a memo. Yes, indeed, a memo in black and white, spelled out among Democrat Senators and staffers back in 2003. I happen to know this because I was a lawyer on the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. But my, how this town loves to sweep aside little details, like the current Democrat President of the United States working in coordination with Democrat Members of the United States Senate when he was a Senator to stop, to block, to filibuster Miguel Estrada because he is a Hispanic conservative.

And we can't have that, can we? Because it breaks the narrative. It destroys the narrative. Republicans are anti-Hispanic. Republicans are anti-Black. We can't have a Black conservative woman advance under a Republican President, George W. Bush. We can't have Hispanic Miguel Estrada advance under a Republican, George W. Bush.

But, no, no, will you hear Jen Psaki talking about that at the podium at the White House? Or will you hear more lies, lies about the whipping of migrants at our border? Will you hear her talk about the fact that no report has been generated by the Department of Justice or the Department of Homeland Security or anybody else about the alleged whipping of migrants, which did not occur, which we know didn't occur. By fact, we know it didn't occur.

But yet, the President of the United States and his own White House Secretary sat at the podium and accused them, ''them'' being our Border Patrol agents, standing on the front lines, being ignored, underfunded, chastised, refused to say any apology since that day. They refused to look at the Border Patrol agents and say, You know, we are sorry. We got that wrong. No report forthcoming.

Anybody sensing a theme that my Democrat friends and colleagues in the White House on the other side of the aisle love to make race an issue? But they are going to sweep aside the killing of Miguel Estrada's nomination because he is a Hispanic male, Hispanic conservative; sweep aside the blocking of Janice Rogers Brown; sweep aside running to cry racism and whipping of the Rio Grande when it is the policies of the Secretary of Homeland Security that is specifically and intentionally endangering the American people; causing our young children across this country to die from poisonings and overdoses; causing bullets to be fired upon our law enforcement officers in Texas; ranchers to get overrun, livestock to get out, cartels to get empowered. And the Secretary of Homeland Security literally refuses to enforce any of the laws to stop that from happening.

But, oh, no, he can't bring himself, and Jen Psaki can't bring herself, and the President can't bring himself to look in the eyes of the Border Patrol and say they apologize for saying that they were whipping human beings.

□ 1445

That is the state of the Democrat Party's commitment to race. It is all a fraud. It is all a fiction. It is all a front. It is all about continuing to foment racial division for partisan political gain. It has nothing to do about judging people by the content of their character and not the color of their skin because if it were, Janice Rogers Brown would not have been blocked and Miguel Estrada would not have been blocked. The President of the United States wouldn't be standing up at a lectern today predetermining the race and the sex of the next Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Speaker, I came down here today to talk about our law enforcement

community. A year and a half ago, I sat here on the floor of the House—maybe in the same spot—with the number 43 similarly positioned on a board. That 43 represented the number of law enforcement police officers killed in the line of duty at that time.

Well, saying to the Speaker and to my colleagues—who, of course, notably, as I like to observe, are not here. This is our idea of debate, you know, in the United States House of Representatives. On fly-out day, everybody is getting home. Nobody is here.

We never have actual debate. We never offer amendments. We never have a back and forth. We come back and have showboats and give speeches on the Capitol steps about how Republicans are better than Democrats or Democrats are better than Republicans. We never sit down here and actually debate. If we did, then we could have honest debate about policies that will protect this country and protect law enforcement officers from the constant barrage and attack levied against them across this country.

I am sick and tired of seeing nonstop attacks on our law enforcement community for being the ones on the front lines every day dealing with crime and figuring out how to protect our communities yet getting tossed under the bus, cast aside as being the ones that we should be targeting.

Eighty-four dead law enforcement officers across this country last year; 346 officers were shot in the line of duty; 103 ambush-style attacks on law enforcement officers, up 115 percent from the year before; 4 police officers were beaten to death; 3 were stabbed to death.

Sergeant Joshua Bartlett, Lubbock County Sheriff's Office in Texas, shot and killed during a barricade at a home on July 15 of last year. Earlier in the morning, the subject had been stopped by a Texas Highway Patrol trooper for reckless driving and attempted to bait the officer into a confrontation. He returned home after the encounter and began walking around the neighborhood with a firearm at 1:15.

When officers of the Levelland Police Department arrived, the man opened fire and barricaded himself inside. The regional SWAT team was requested as the man randomly fired shots from the home.

Sergeant Bartlett was a United States Army veteran. He is survived by his wife, four sons, parents, and a brother.

Police Officer Mitchell Aaron Penton, Dallas, Texas, was struck and killed by a vehicle operated by an intoxicated driver on February 13, 2021. At the time of his death, he had a stepson, and his wife was expecting.

Police Officer Brandon M. Stalker, Toledo Police Department, Ohio, was shot and killed during a barricade involving an arson suspect. Officer Stalker was on a perimeter position and was struck in the head and fatally wounded. He is survived by his two children and fiance.

Police Officer Jimmy Inn was shot and killed while responding to a domestic violence call on May 11, 2021. He had served with the Stockton Police Department for 6 years. He is survived by his wife, 7-month-old son, and two stepchildren.

Sergeant James Smith, Iowa State Patrol, Iowa, was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a subject who had assaulted and disarmed another law enforcement officer during a traffic stop on April 2, 2021. He is survived by his wife, two children, mother, brother, and sister.

Lieutenant Michael Boutte was shot and killed after responding to a call involving a subject attempting suicide. He was a United States Air Force veteran and served with the Hancock County Sheriff's office for 8 years. He is survived by his wife and two children.

Police Officer Chris Oberheim, Champaign Police Department, Illinois, was shot and killed at about 3:20 a.m. while responding to a domestic disturbance call. He had been on the job 20 years. He was 44 with a wife and four children.

Trooper Chad Michael Walker, Texas Department of Public Safety, March 28, 2021, succumbed to gunshot wounds sustained 5 days earlier when he was ambushed while stopping to assist what he believed was a disabled vehicle near Mexia, Texas. He served with the Texas Highway Patrol for 6 years. He had 18 years in law enforcement. He is survived by his wife, 15-year-old son, twin 7-year-older daughters, and a 2-month-old daughter.

Here are some of the quotes from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue about police officers.

Jen Psaki, White House press secretary, while criticizing FOX News coverage of soft-on-crime policies, stated, while laughing, ''What does that even mean?'' and referred to the coverage as an alternative universe.

President Biden famously expressed support for the defund the police movement in 2020 and then had to walk that back after backlash.

Vice President KAMALA HARRIS applauded Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti for defunding the police.

Representative OCASIO-CORTEZ said, ''Defunding police means defunding police,'' arguing the cuts to the New York Police Department weren't enough.

Representative AYANNA PRESSLEY said she supports efforts to defund police departments.

Representative RASHIDA TLAIB called for ''no more'' police. TLAIB's campaign has paid over $150,000 to defund the police activist Rasha Mubarak.

Representative ILHAN OMAR said:

> Not only do we need to defund, we need to dismantle police departments.

Representative CORI BUSH said that she would ''make sure'' she has private security for her protection while simultaneously promising to defund the police. This weekend, Representative BUSH doubled down in her support for defunding our police departments on Twitter.

President Biden's Assistant Attorney General, Kristen Clarke, supported efforts to defund the police.

President Biden's Associate Attorney General, Vanita Gupta, said officials must heed calls to ''decrease police budgets and the scope, role, and responsibility of police in our lives.''

President Biden's Secretary of Labor, Marty Walsh, proposed a budget to divert funding from law enforcement.

We see now what is happening in Minnesota, where you have one of the individuals who was a part of the mob violence riots in the summer of 2020, who burned down a store, a commercial property, and did so with video footage indicating the glee of doing so—this being an individual with a very long criminal record.

The man who owned or worked at the establishment, I think, had five kids and died as a result of the fire set by this individual in Minnesota. The United States Attorney's Office in Minnesota filed a sentencing brief that read exactly like the defense lawyer's brief, citing all the events of the summer, completely offsetting the dead father of five with a store burned to the ground during mob violence rule in the summer of 2020.

This United States Department of Justice, this United States Attorney's Office in Minnesota, downward departed from the sentencing guidelines of 20 years down to 10 years, purposefully citing the political interest of the summer of 2020, the political cause of the summer of 2020, in recommending that downward departure despite the criminal record of the perpetrator of the crime, despite the destroyed and burned down building, despite the death of the owner of the store and the fact that he had multiple children. All of that was cast aside in the political judgment, not even of the judge, but of the United States Attorney's Office.

Lo and behold, that acting United States attorney a few months later is now working at Main Justice. I would sure like to know why. I would sure like to know who was involved. I would sure like to know who made the calls. I would sure like to know from the current acting United States attorney if that acting United States attorney agrees with the sentencing recommendations of the so-called prosecutors in the Minnesota U.S. Attorney's Office who turned a blind eye to their duty to keep the streets safe, to prosecute them under their oath to the Constitution and defense of the laws of the United States to protect the people of Minnesota, and chose to choose a political path, and chose to follow politics rather than do their job.

We want to know. We are going to ask questions in the House Judiciary Committee. I can assure you that if the good people of the United States were to give the majority to the Republicans in January 2023, there are going to be

some questions asked and some answers delivered by this administration for their failure to enforce the laws of the United States while American people die, lose property, are harmed, are killed. At the border of Texas or in Minnesota—it doesn't matter—the laws of the United States are supposed to be enforced, and we should be standing up for the rule of law.

We are going to demand answers to questions. I want answers from the United States Attorney General for targeting parents for daring to stand up to school boards. I want answers from the Secretary of Homeland Security for his clearly impeachable conduct for recklessly ignoring the laws of the United States, endangering my people and constituents in Texas, endangering the people of this country while empowering cartels and allowing fentanyl to pour into our schools. I want answers. We are going to demand answers.

We are going to want answers and demand answers from Anthony Fauci and all the bureaucrats at NIH and CDC for shutting down our schools, shutting down our economy, lying about what we were seeing in terms of gain of function research in China.

We are going to want answers, and we are going to get those answers. While this body fiddles, we will demand answers if the American people will give us the ability to get them.

I mentioned our situation at our border. We are in the midst of a fentanyl, opioid, and drug crisis in this country, the likes we have not seen before.

□ 1500

Those of us who grew up in the eighties know what we saw with the cocaine epidemic. I was a 14-year-old when Len Bias notoriously died from an overdose within a week of being drafted by the Boston Celtics after his career at the University of Maryland.

We know the horrors of the cocaine epidemic that led, by the way, to the crime bills of the 1990s supported by this President, supported by Black Americans across this country and lobbied for by Black pastors and Black leaders across this country because of the violence and the epidemic of drugs across our cities and across our towns in the 1980s and 1990s. We responded, and as a result, the crime rate went down.

And now what are we seeing?

Massive spikes in crime, massive spikes in drug use, carjackings in our Nation's Capital where it is easier to get carjacked than to order a hamburger while we are under lockdowns, and vaccine mandates and vaccine passports in the Nation's Capital.

Side note: Yet another reason why we should never let the District of Columbia be a State. It is not supposed to have the political interest of a State. It is supposed to be our National Capital where people can come and go, where they can petition their government, and where they can come and do the business of the people. So we will address that issue as well in the next Congress.

I am proud to represent Texas, but Texas is under assault. Texas is under assault every day by cartel-driven violence fueled by China and driven by the profit motive of pouring fentanyl into our communities, destroying our children's lives, causing addiction, causing death, and causing destruction. And this administration not only does nothing, it is worse than that, this administration purposefully—purposefully—ignores the laws of the United States to the detriment and the endangerment of the American people.

There is no other way to put it when our laws require operational control of the border and we do not have it.

There is no other way to put it when our ranches are overrun, fences are cut, and livestock gets out.

There is no other way to put it when there are stash houses in Houston, in San Antonio, in Laredo, in Del Rio, in McAllen, in Arizona, and in California. In every big city across this country there are stash houses where human beings are being moved for profit.

There is no other way to put it when the current administration is releasing people into the United States. They are knowingly, in violation of law, releasing people into the United States under the guise of so-called asylum. They know it is not asylum, and they know it is not credible fear. They know they are releasing single, adult males. They are lying about it because we see them talking about the lies on tape.

And the American people are the ones holding the bag. The American people are the ones who have their kids dying because they take a Xanax that is laced with fentanyl. And this administration doesn't care.

This administration ignores the rule of law, ignores the Secure Fence Act, lets fencing rust in the field, and fails to require the fence to continue to be constructed which would help support Border Patrol and the communities in south Texas.

But let me send a very clear warning signal to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: My colleagues take for granted the people of south Texas, as a political matter. And I can tell you, the people of south Texas are tired of it. The people of south Texas are tired of being on the front lines of a cartel-driven drug-and-human-trafficking war with bullets flying, people dying, morgues filled, and rape trees being used.

And this body, the people's House, not only sits silent, they facilitate it, and they facilitate the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security who does nothing but fuel the crisis even more.

Mr. Speaker, 100,306 Americans are dead as a result of drug overdoses or poisonings.

Mr. Speaker, how many minutes are remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I do want to finish by saying, it is our duty to secure the border of the United States. It is the duty of the Secretary to secure the border of the United States. There are 100,000 dead Americans as a result of wide-open borders, and it is impeachable conduct by the Secretary of Homeland Security. We are going to address that issue if the American people will give us the ability to be in the majority.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas for yielding. I want to say, first and foremost, I thank him for his consistent, loud, smart, and well-reasoned comments on our open border and the impact on our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I too want to bring attention to this criminal issue.

I have this Sweet-N-Low packet that so many of us put in our coffee in the morning, and that illustrates, Mr. Speaker, that that one amount of sweetener, if it were fentanyl, would kill 500 Americans.

In Arkansas, fentanyl deaths are up 441 percent since 2015. Over 600 Arkansans have lost their lives. Every 5 minutes we lose a neighbor to an accidental drug overdose. Just last year, as my friend from Texas said, we lost over 100,000 Americans to accidental overdoses, which is now the leading cause of death between the ages of 18 and 45. We were here on this floor 3 years ago lamenting 55,000 Americans dying in 1 year—the same we lost in the entire Vietnam war—and now it is 100,000.

Fentanyl is directly responsible for 64 percent of those deaths, Mr. Speaker, and a majority of that fentanyl within the United States comes from our porous Southwest border—the border that the Biden administration has continuously failed to secure—as it flows directly into our communities.

Last year, enough fentanyl was interdicted—that is what we caught—by our overworked Border Patrol to kill every American seven times over. It isn't enough to confiscate it at the border. We need strong leadership to discourage it from arriving in the first place, and we can do that by permanently scheduling fentanyl as a schedule I substance and increase the criminal penalties.

We need strong leadership and strong policies to secure our border and respond to the illicit fentanyl that has been found in every street drug. Until then, sadly, as noted by my friend from Texas, Americans will continue to die at the hand of fentanyl.

CHEERING ON TEAM USA

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, as we cheer on Team USA this week and celebrate our athletes participating in the 2022 winter games, it is important we do not overlook the sins of the host nation, China.

China has carefully crafted their image to distract the world from their blatant human rights abuses and their totalitarianism.

The International Olympic Committee has worked to portray China in a positive light. The truth is, China is an authoritarian state set on the destruction of anyone and anything that doesn't adhere to its world view.

The Chinese Communist Party believes that its administrative control over its people is the most effective form of governance. The Uyghurs continue to face genocide and crimes against humanity. The people of Hong Kong have seen the destruction of their liberal state. China seeks to expand its influence in the world through its predatory lending and its failed Belt and Road Initiative.

We can do better. We need American leadership to counter this.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman's remarks about China, and I yield back the balance of my time.

UKRAINE: THE SCRIMMAGE LINE FOR LIBERTY IN EUROPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as co-chair of the 50-member bipartisan Congressional Ukraine Caucus to voice our strong support for Ukraine and her people.

Ukraine is the scrimmage line for liberty on the European continent—our very closest allies. Right now, the world is watching with growing alarm as Russia again beats the Kremlin's drums of war.

Vladimir Putin, with his thirst for force over reason and the rule of law, is severely isolated from the norms of human decency and the global community. Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014. Fourteen thousand people have been killed. While Ukraine is Putin's most immediate target, it certainly is not the only one he has his eyes on. As we have watched, Russia has taken pieces of Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and the message is clear.

Thirty years ago, the people of Ukraine voted by more than 90 percent to establish their independence. Ukraine was a signatory to the Budapest Memorandum in which the West guaranteed Ukraine's security in return for all nuclear weapons staged on its territory be removed.

Will the West keep its promise?

For decades, the Soviet Union held Ukraine, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, and so many others under its iron fist suppressing any notion of freedom. We have a map here that clearly shows how small Ukraine is compared to the vast Russian Empire. We are not talking about equal partners here.

In 1991 the world rejoiced when, at long last, the Communist Iron Curtain fell—a moment the free world did not expect to see in modern time. Upon its fall, liberty and opportunity, which once had only been dreams, now became new possibilities in Ukraine. Over these last 30 years, Ukraine has struggled to cast off Russian interference and grow into a strong, proud, and vibrant nation. It has been a struggle every day of every year.

Having visited Ukraine more than any other Member of Congress, I know her people, her communities, her culture, and her struggle. In 2014 I joined then-Vice President Joe Biden and Senator John McCain to attend the inauguration of a new President of Ukraine. As our delegation walked down the streets of the capital city, I can guarantee you, Mr. Speaker, the applause and cheers that rang forth from the crowd as America walked down the street was absolutely unforgettable and astounding. Ukraine's freedom-loving people were exclaiming their love and friendship with the United States, but, most of all, with the idea of liberty. Liberty. It is a memory that I cherish and will never forget.

The people of Ukraine, yes, they have hopes and dreams, and they want to live with safety, stability, and enduring prosperity, but, most of all, with liberty. Those hopes and dreams face constant threat by Russia. It seems to never stop. Ukraine has no desire to have its back broken under Russia's repressive command.

In 2014 Russia illegally invaded, as I mentioned, and now over 14,000 of her people have been killed in Ukraine. Over 1 million more have been displaced, and the country probably has under 40 million people now.

Russia's physical territory represents Goliath in his battle against David. The maps clearly show how vast Russia is—over 13 time zones compared to Ukraine.

We see the Russian military amassing at all the borders of Ukraine. If Russia again invades Ukraine, the internal opposition would be fierce and bloody, and that country suffered more than any other people in the world during World War II, that infamous period of time when so many Americans died on the European continent for the very idea of liberty in Europe.

The response that is needed from global leaders is clear. When freedom and liberty fall under attack, the free world has an obligation to rise up in its defense.

The United States is doing its part. I support President Biden and his administration having committed to end the Nord Stream 2 project if Russia invades Ukraine further. We must continue to stiffen sanctions and work to establish European energy independence and forge a global defensive shield for the protection of Ukraine.

□ 1515

The United Nations, NATO, and the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe have the ability to rally a global coalition to ward off Putin and his thirst for domination over countries that do not welcome him.

Russia cannot be allowed to operate as the outlaw on the European Continent. So let us seek to build, not destroy. The time has come for the free world to soundly reject Putin's ugly schemes and work together to safeguard Ukraine now and forever.

There are several Members who are joining us here today on the floor to participate in this Special Order. I would like to especially recognize BRIAN FITZPATRICK, the co-chair of Ukraine Caucus from Pennsylvania.

We also have, I believe, Congressman KWEISI MFUME of Maryland, Congressman ANDY LEVIN of Michigan, and Congresswoman VICTORIA SPARTZ of Indiana, thus far. I thank them all for being here.

I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative KAPTUR for all she does for Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here not only as the co-chair of Ukraine Caucus, but also the ranking member of the House Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment, and Cyber; and a commission on the Helsinki Commission, having previously served and lived in Ukraine, in Kiev, standing side by side with the Ukranian people, and growing to love them for their heart, their passion, their desire for independence, their desire for closer ties to the West, and their craving for freedom, something that they are striving for more and more every single day.

With all of those things in context, Mr. Speaker, this moment before us, unfortunately, has not come as a surprise. Over the last 8 years, the amazing people of Ukraine have endured Russia's illegal and violent occupation. To date, some 14,000 innocent Ukrainians have perished, many of whom were civilians with more than a million displaced.

The autocratic regime of Vladimir Putin has engaged in countless humanitarian violations and challenged international norms of sovereignty over the last 30 years, and it is imperative that the United States and our NATO allies meet this moment with deterrence and diplomacy and strength in unity.

America must, as we have in the past, stand up against Russian authoritarianism. The people of Ukraine share our Western values and deserve freedom from Russian oppression. The people of Ukraine share a steadfast commitment to regional cooperation resisting polarization and shining a light on corruption. The United States has moved to supply

Ukraine with lethal aid to maintain its borders in the wake of increased Russian aggression.

The United States has committed just recently an additional $200 million in security assistance, and we must encourage our NATO allies to act in a similar fashion. We applaud those NATO allies who have stepped up to the plate and encourage those who have not that they must do so now to maintain the NATO alliance. We have already stepped up to defend democracy in so many other areas of the world and this must be no exception.

It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that more of our ally countries will take this charge seriously and realize what is at stake. It is also my hope that our allies can look to decouple with the Russian economy, recognizing the larger threat Putin's destabilizing regime poses throughout Europe and throughout the world. Taking decisive action in implementing economic sanctions to the harshest degree is necessary, and we must weigh all of our options given the severity of this moment, along with a wide, bipartisan coalition in both Chambers of Congress.

My colleagues in Congress have called for sweeping sanctions on the kleptocrats that keep Putin's regime operable. As it has before with other rogue powers, the international community must send a clear and unequivocal message. If Russia insists on threatening the sovereignty of another state and jeopardizing global security, there will be the harshest of consequences.

I would like to thank my co-chairs for being here today as well as Representative VICTORIA SPARTZ, the first-ever Ukrainian born Member of Congress, an immense source of pride for the people of Ukraine. We are here to send a bipartisan, bicameral message to Vladimir Putin and his corrupt regime that these consequences will far outweigh any benefit he may perceive of further aggression in Ukraine.

If the Euromaidan Revolution should have sent any message to Russia, it is that you never underestimate the heart and the passion of the soul of Ukrainian people to defend their own independence.

The overwhelming majority of Ukrainians were born after 1991, after their independence. They do not want any part of Russia regardless of what Vladimir Putin thinks. And we will stand behind them unequivocally and unapologetically to call for the harshest of consequence should Vladimir Putin take one step across the Ukrainian border.

I personally will make it my mission here in this body to see that they receive the harshest consequences, the least of which will be ending Nord Stream 2 and removing Russia from the Swiss banking system, cutting off their economy, targeting sanctions to Vladimir Putin himself and his surrounding oligarchs.

I say to Mr. Putin that that will be just the beginning of what he will face.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman FITZPATRICK for his strong support of Ukraine and for the substance he has given from his own life prior to his service here in the Congress of putting that life at risk many times on behalf of liberty around the world. I thank him so very, very much.

I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), who is a very fervent supporter of Ukraine, and thank him for adjusting his schedule to be here with us this evening.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the House Ukraine Caucus in this strong show of resolve to keep our focus on what is happening in Ukraine and on its borders. And I especially want to thank my dear friend, Chair MARCY KAPTUR, for her leadership in organizing this timely event, and the co-chair, BRIAN FITZPATRICK, for his strong leadership on this issue and all of the other Members who are joining today.

I represent one of the most vibrant Ukrainian-American communities in the United States. And I have spent time with my constituents in Michigan at memorials and commemorations of the Holodomor, and even just last weekend at a peace vigil in a Ukrainian church to pray for peace and for no more war in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian-American community in Metro Detroit and around this Nation is deeply worried about their family, about their friends in Ukraine, and what might happen if Russia were to newly invade their country because we know Russia has already invaded their country.

It is 8 years of Russia invasion and occupation of Crimea and their interference in the Donbas and eastern parts of Ukraine, and it has been a really traumatizing time for Ukrainians, obviously, but also for Ukrainian-Americans.

I have been supportive of the efforts here in the House and by the Biden administration to focus on both deterrence and diplomacy. I am proud to cosponsor the Defending Ukraine Sovereignty Act which seeks to deter Russia by imposing tougher sanctions by providing more defensive equipment and weapons, and expanding programming to counter Russian disinformation and cyber activity.

I also want to commend President Biden emphasizing diplomacy to deescalate tension. Above all, we must avoid a war between the two largest nuclear powers. I appreciate how much he has worked to unify all of our European allies behind this effort, and I appreciate the leadership of those European allies in pushing for a peaceful resolution to this situation.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to join with my colleagues today and to share this commitment to helping the Ukrainian people, and I am hopeful that our work in the Congress, coupled with measures taken by the Biden administration, will ultimately prevent more conflict from breaking out. But we have got to make it very, very clear to Vladimir Putin that he will get exactly what he doesn't want if he insists on attacking Ukraine further.

He has said he wants less NATO involvement in the eastern reaches of the alliance, and his aggression and his provocation is causing just what he says he doesn't want. So I am hopeful that diplomacy can carry the day, but we have to be ready with all measures of deterrence to prevent an attack, and we have to be—even though it doesn't make sense to implement sanctions in advance, it definitely makes sense that we be very clear with Putin and the oligarchs and the people around him just as Representative FITZPATRICK said, that we will implement a broad array of sanctions, by far, the harshest array of sanctions that we have ever arrayed against them.

Before I yield back, Congresswoman KAPTUR, I just wanted to share that when I was at my most recent event in the community in Michigan, I said—and Congresswoman SPARTZ, I want to say this to you because I haven't had a chance to talk to you about this idea—let's organize a vigil at the Holodomor Memorial here near Union Station when we are back to stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

Let's get as many Members of Congress there as we can. That idea seems to be taking off with the Ukrainian-American community. So I hope we will soon have a date when we can announce an event there where we can show our solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

Lord knows, we love Ukraine. It is an independent country that deserves to have its own borders respected and where the people deserve to democratically determine their own future and, Congresswoman KAPTUR, we are never going to give up on our commitment to those principles.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LEVIN for his leadership on this, and we will work with him on the vigil at the Holodomor Memorial here in Washington, D.C.

I thank the gentleman for taking the time to delay his flight back home, I am sure, to be with us. The gentleman reminds me when we look at the map of Russia in red and Ukraine in yellow, we think about David and Goliath—at least I do—and David deserves attention and respect.

We thank you for your time this evening. And also I wanted to say to Congresswoman VICTORIA SPARTZ from the State of Indiana who is joining us this evening, sometimes the heavens produce someone in the Congress at a moment in history that becomes pivotal.

As I introduce her, I thank her extremely for her excellent participation in the Ukrainian Caucus, her leadership, and her ability to change her schedule at any point in order to be a strong voice for liberty. No one knows

better than she what it is like to live under a tyrannical, repressive regime.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. SPARTZ).

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman KAPTUR and Congressman BRIAN FITZPATRICK for their bipartisan leadership.

I know that this Special Order is about the situation in Ukraine, but the situation in Ukraine goes beyond Ukraine. It is a threat to the stability of the world order, the largest threat since World War II, and a threat to any democracy.

I would also like to remind us that millions of our predecessors died for freedom, peace, and democracy. I would like to read some excerpts from the recent joint statement of the Russian Federation and the Peoples Republic of China dated February 4, 2022.

''Today, the world is going through momentous changes, and humanity is entering a new era of . . . profound transformation. It sees . . . transformation of the global governance architecture and world order . . . a trend has emerged towards redistribution of power in the world. The sides note that Russia and China as world powers . . . have longstanding traditions of democracy which rely on thousand-years of experience. They stand ready to work together with all the interested partners to promote genuine democracy.''

I know that President Putin is not going to listen to me, and I am not sure to anyone else, but I hope he still has to listen to the Russian people at least a little bit. I am not naive on his personal ambitions although I would still offer him an olive branch if he really cares about his people in his country. Therefore, I am going to direct my message to over 3 million Russian Americans. I am talking to you as a Congresswoman representing the great State of Indiana, who grew up under Communists in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. I was born in a country that doesn't exist anymore, and for good reason, as many of you, too.

I know that many of you have relatives in Russia and dual citizenship. I know that Putin has powerful anti-American propaganda on his TV. I was somewhat surprised over its extant. It's worse than during the Soviet Union times.

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I want you to let the Russian people know that neither the United States nor the West are a threat to Russia's national security.

I would argue that Russia has a much bigger threat coming from the east. There is a very aggressive economic expansion of China in the Far East and Siberia.

I would also like to make it very clear that the American people do not want another war in Europe.

I also want to remind you of the human cost of any war. If Russia starts a war in Ukraine, which looks more and more likely, a lot of young people will have to die from both sides. No one will benefit from it. Maybe the Chinese Communist Party, but not the Russian people.

I just do not believe that the Russian people would want to go in history as a puppet to the imperialistic ambitions of China and would want to promote a so-called genuine democracy of the Chinese Communist Party.

The ball is in your court, President Putin and Russian people. I hope you will be on the right side of history.

I also would like to share a message with my fellow Americans: Do not get distracted, and do not get reluctant. A threat to our freedoms from outside and within is real. Protect and cherish our freedoms so our children do not have to fight to get them back.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman SPARTZ very much for being here and for being such a strong voice for liberty, having known the other side of that. I thank her for her time today, for her heartfelt remarks. We continue to be benefited by her extraordinary leadership.

Mr. Speaker, our final speaker today is the very distinguished gentleman from the State of Maryland who knows a whole lot about the rule of law and human rights.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MFUME), who we are fortunate has returned to Congress after serving in so many national positions. We are so grateful for his life and his presence here today.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. KAPTUR for her overly gracious remarks. I appreciate them. I also appreciate the opportunity to join her and the others in our discussion about Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Ohio has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I am really happy to join with Congresswoman KAPTUR, who has served for some time now as chair of the Ukrainian Caucus, who has driven us and gotten us to this point, but who has also kept together a bipartisan group of legislators. So, to her and to Ranking Member FITZPATRICK, my thanks to both of them.

We are all here, obviously, because of the situation in Ukraine. This comes at us from different ways. I initially got involved when I came back to Congress because of a gentleman by the name of Roman Goy in my district who has watched these situations with Ukraine going back to 2014 and beyond and who felt sort of helpless.

On behalf of Mr. Goy in Catonsville and all the other ones that I have heard from—and I am particularly heartened to also hear, as we did earlier, from the gentlewoman, Mrs. SPARTZ, who is the only native Ukrainian to serve here in the United States Congress. Her comments are compelling, and her witness is one that we should always keep in front of us as something to be reminded of.

Mr. Speaker, I go back a long, long way in terms of the aggression that we now see in Ukraine. I go so far back as to remember the Cold War days that a lot of us grew up under, the days of a very, very aggressive Soviet Union hellbent on domination, spanning 13 time zones, with a growing nuclear arsenal in those days and with the twisted belief that they somehow or another could, in fact, be a part of this hemisphere and pose an issue to us. It was a different Soviet Union. It is Russia now, but that same sort of thinking pervades.

Back then, I am talking about the missile crisis in Cuba, where Soviet President Khrushchev, Nikita Khrushchev, was putting missiles 90 miles off our coast, believing that he and the Soviet Union had a right to that sort of expansionism, that sort of aggression.

Thank God that President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, having reached a very tight ultimatum with the reality, decided that the United States would not accept that.

We were on the brink of war then, but the Soviet Union blinked. They removed their missiles from Cuba, and we have sort of coexisted in a sort of Cold War for some time now.

Then, with the fall of Berlin and the ending of the Soviet Union as we knew it, and now the singular emergence of Russia, all of us concerned here are concerned about what is happening in Ukraine.

When you look at the troop movements that are taking place, when you look at the propaganda being spun by the Kremlin, it is all so familiar to what happened in 1914 when the Soviet Union went off in its own direction and when it began to build up its war machine.

In 2014, the Russian Government, following the same script, has decided—or did decide then—to have similar troop movements, similar weapons buildup, and a similar effort to invade. Even though the talk then was ''we are not invading,'' we know what happened then. They invaded Ukraine. They took and annexed Crimea.

People in Kiev and elsewhere have been watching the situation with great trepidation, and now we are at a point with a massive Russian buildup all along the Ukrainian border, well over 100,000 troops, all sorts of armaments, and the ability to have airpower to strike and to take, if they want to, that country.

So, the fact that President Biden and others have stood up—we want to also thank all of our European allies for banding together. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was formed just to be able to prevent things such as this. Although Ukraine is not a signatory under Article 5, its sovereignty and its independence is so very, very important.

I want to join with Congresswoman KAPTUR, Ranking Member

FITZPATRICK, Mrs. SPARTZ with her testimony, and all the others who have continued to raise this issue.

In the old, old days, we never knew when the then-Soviet Union was going to strike. We don't know now. I remember air drills at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. In schools, we were so close to the end of the last war, kids had to stop what they were doing and practice drills, hiding under their desks. In every school, there was a bomb shelter. We have come a long way since then, but that threat is still there.

A lot of people say: Well, why is this important? It is important because history can repeat itself. It is important because history often does repeat itself. It is important because it is a lesson that we have learned and must never get away from.

Terrorism anywhere is a threat to democracies everywhere. I join and am happy in this bipartisan effort, Mr. Speaker, to lend my voice.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MFUME for his sterling remarks. His presence here adds enormous value to what we are attempting to do, to stop war, to promote diplomacy and peace, and to help protect a David against a Goliath. This is a very noble calling.

As we close today, I want to say for the record, for teachers who may be listening, for scholars, for other Members of Congress, there is a book by Dr. Timothy Snyder of Yale University titled ''Bloodlands.'' If you want to understand the struggle for liberty, that is a book that is a must-read.

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

DISPENSING WITH CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR ON TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the call of the Private Calendar be dispensed with on Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 11 a.m. on Friday, February 11, 2022.

Thereupon (at 3 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, February 11, 2022, at 11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC–3400. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor for Regulatory Affairs, Departmental Offices, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (RIN: 1505-AC77) received February 8, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–3401. A letter from the Chief of Planning and Regulatory Affairs Office, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's correcting amendment — CACFP Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010; Correcting Amendments [FNS-2011-0029] (RIN: 0584-AE18) received February 8, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC–3402. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — 2-Isobutyl-2-methyl-1, 3-dioxolane-4-methanol; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2017-0541; FRL-9418-01-OCSPP] received February 8, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3403. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's interim final determination — Determination to Defer Sanctions; Arizona; Maricopa County; Power Plants [EPA-R09-OAR-2022-0107; FRL-9426-03-R9] received February 8, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3404. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fludioxonil; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0419 and EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0020; FRL-9482-01-OCSPP] received February 8, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3405. A letter from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Applicable Schedule Amount received February 8, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–3406. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Secretariat Division, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR); Updating References to Commercial Items [GSAR Case 2021-G510; Docket No.: GSA-GSAR 2021-0026; Sequence No. 1] (RIN: 3090-AK37) received February 8, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–3407. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Secretariat Division, Office of Governmentwide Policy, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986, Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustment [FPMR Case 2022-01; Docket No.: GSA-FPMR-2022-0004; Sequence No. 1] (RIN: 3090-AK53) received February 8, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3408. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Secretariat Division, Office of Asset and Transportation Management, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Management Regulation; Art in Architecture [FMR Case 2021-02; Docket No.: GSA-FMR-2021-0024; Sequence No. 1] (RIN: 3090-AK47) received February 8, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. VAN DUYNE (for herself, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. GOHMERT):

H.R. 6653. A bill to prohibit participation of persons convicted of certain felonies in programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CASE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. SCANLON, and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 6654. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a National Climate Adaptation Science Center and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers to respond to the effects of extreme weather events and climate trends, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BACON (for himself and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 6655. A bill to amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to provide compensation for direct victims of civil rights movement violence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BACON (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. MULLIN):

H.R. 6656. A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to establish a demonstration grant program to provide emergency relief to foster youth and improve preplacement services offered by foster care stabilization agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BACON (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. MULLIN):

H.R. 6657. A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to encourage the development of specialized foster care programs designed specifically for large sibling groups, sibling groups with a wide age range, and sibling groups with complex needs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS OF ILLINOIS (for himself, Mr. BRADY, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BOST, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. UPTON, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. MEIJER, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. BUCSHON, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. DUNN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. MANN, Mr. MAST, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. BACON, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. MEUSER, Ms.

HERRELL, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. STEIL, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. HERN, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BARR, Mr. PENCE, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. LATTA, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. COLE, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. REED, Mr. FERGUSON, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. EMMER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. JACOBS of New York, and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 6658. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent certain provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act affecting individuals, families, and small businesses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BOST (for himself, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. MANN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Ms. MACE, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. ELLZEY, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. POSEY, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. MEIJER, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, and Mrs. CAMMACK):

H.R. 6659. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve health care and services for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CHU, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COSTA, Ms. DEAN, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. EVANS, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. KAHELE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEAL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 6660. A bill to award a Congressional gold medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H.R. 6661. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1663 East Date Place in San Bernardino, California, as the ''Dr. Margaret B. Hill Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CARSON, Ms. TITUS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LIEU, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 6662. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a grant program to facilitate electric vehicle sharing services operated at public housing projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 6663. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Fleet Reserve Association; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BURCHETT (for himself, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee):

H.R. 6664. A bill to require certain meetings of the Tennessee Valley Authority to be transparent and open to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CAWTHORN:

H.R. 6665. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to ensure that the number of members of the Armed Forces who are deployed by reason of the situation in Ukraine does not exceed the number of members of the Armed Forces who are deployed to the Southern Border of the United States; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. CLARK OF MASSACHUSETTS (for herself and Mr. YOUNG):

H.R. 6666. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the financial aid process for homeless and foster care youth; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 6667. A bill to permit expungement of records of certain nonviolent criminal offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COLE (for himself, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. BOST, Mr. CAREY, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. GOHMERT, Ms. LETLOW, and Mr. CALVERT):

H.R. 6668. A bill to prohibit Members of Congress from receiving a financial benefit from certain student loan cancellation programs; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS (for himself and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI):

H.R. 6669. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide formula grants to States to improve higher education opportunities for foster youth and homeless youth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, and Miss RICE of New York):

H.R. 6670. A bill to permit employees to request changes to their work schedules without fear of retaliation and to ensure that employers consider these requests, and to require employers to provide more predictable and stable schedules for employees in certain occupations with evidence of unpredictable and unstable scheduling practices that negatively affect employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Oversight and Reform, and the Judiciary, 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. FITZGERALD (for himself, Mr. BOST, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. POSEY, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.R. 6671. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that a member of the Armed Forces, granted a general discharge under honorable conditions on the sole basis that such member failed to obey a lawful order to receive a vaccine for COVID-19, is eligible for certain educational assistance administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GARBARINO (for himself, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. MCKINLEY, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. MORELLE):

H.R. 6672. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program to provide grants to certain veteran service organizations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TONY GONZALES OF TEXAS:

H.R. 6673. A bill to authorize appropriations for Operation Stonegarden, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. GOODEN OF TEXAS:

H.R. 6674. A bill to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from requiring individuals to submit biometric information or geolocation information to access online services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 6675. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with a nongovernmental entity to conduct an audit of the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER (for herself, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BACON, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. LATTA):

H.R. 6676. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit administering COVID-19 vaccines to minors without parental consent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. JACOBS OF CALIFORNIA (for herself and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 6677. A bill to amend the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 to modify the eligibility requirements for entities collaborating with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide case management services to homeless veterans under the Veterans Affairs supported housing program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, 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. JAYAPAL (for herself and Mr. ROSENDALE):

H.R. 6678. A bill to prohibit stock trading and ownership by Members of Congress and spouses of Members of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, House Administration, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JOHNSON OF OHIO:

H.R. 6679. A bill to establish a scholarship program for certain individuals who have completed at least 2 years of service in the military, emergency medical service, police force, or as a teacher's assistant or firefighter, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 6680. A bill to establish the Integrated Blue Economy and Blue Energy Technologies Program, and a Blue Economy Center of Excellence, to support research and development of blue energy technologies; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI):

H.R. 6681. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Lincoln Memorial; to the Committee on Financial Services.

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

H.R. 6682. A bill to amend titles 38 and 5, United States Code, to ensure that certain employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs are subject to the same removal, demotion, and suspension policies as other employees of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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. LARSON OF CONNECTICUT (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COOPER, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LIEU, Mr. CORREA, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. NEAL, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. WELCH, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BERA, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. GALLEGO):

H.R. 6683. A bill to establish an AmeriCorps Administration to carry out the national and volunteer service programs, to expand participation in such programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Natural Resources, and Agriculture, 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 Mrs. LEE OF NEVADA (for herself and Mrs. STEEL):

H.R. 6684. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide the work opportunity tax credit with respect to hiring veterans who are receiving educational assistance under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or Defense; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LEVIN OF CALIFORNIA (for himself, Mr. ISSA, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. STEEL, Ms. PORTER, and Mrs. KIM of California):

H.R. 6685. A bill to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 to prioritize the acceptance of high-level radioactive waste or spent nuclear fuel from certain civilian nuclear power reactors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN (for herself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BANKS, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. MANN, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. HERN, and Mr. BABIN):

H.R. 6686. A bill to provide for the imposition of sanctions on members of the National Communist Party Congress of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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:

H.R. 6687. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to establish a competitive grant program to award grants to local educational agencies to address implicit bias in elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 6688. A bill to amend title 23 and title 49, United States Code, to remove transit-oriented development projects as projects eligible for assistance under the transportation infrastructure finance and innovation program and the railroad rehabilitation and improvement financing program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 6689. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to repeal certain employee protective arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PERRY (for himself and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 6690. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Transportation from issuing any rule, regulation, or guidance that promotes the use of speed safety cameras, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 6691. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit Federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, 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. PERRY:

H.R. 6692. A bill to prohibit the obligation or expenditure of funds relating to the Climate Change Professionals Program and any other program, project, or activity relating to climate change of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PINGREE (for herself, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 6693. A bill to permit aliens seeking asylum to be eligible for employment in the United States and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 6694. A bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and the STOCK Act to require certain senior officials to report payments received from the Federal Government, to improve the filing and disclosure of financial disclosures by Members of Congress, congressional staff, very senior employees, and others, and to ban stock trading for certain senior Government officials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and the Judiciary, 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. 6695. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the equitable restoration of eligibility for provision of Department of Veterans Affairs memorial headstones and markers for eligible spouses and dependent children of veterans whose remains are unavailable; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. PRESSLEY (for herself, Ms. DELAURO, and Ms. BUSH):

H.R. 6696. A bill to create a database of eviction information, establish grant programs for eviction prevention and legal aid, and limit use of housing court-related records in consumer reports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RICE OF SOUTH CAROLINA (for himself and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 6697. A bill to establish an advisory group to encourage and foster collaborative efforts among individuals and entities engaged in disaster recovery relating to debris removal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Ms. PRESSLEY):

H.R. 6698. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the requirement that States establish a Medicaid Estate Recovery Program and to limit the circumstances in which a State may place a lien on a Medicaid beneficiary's property; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. PORTER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. TORRES of

New York, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 6699. A bill to extend protections to part-time workers in the areas of family and medical leave and pension plans, and to ensure equitable treatment in the workplace; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Oversight and Reform, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH OF NEBRASKA (for himself and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 6700. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMUCKER (for himself and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H.R. 6701. A bill to make companies that support venues and events eligible for grants under the shuttered venue operators grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mrs. WALORSKI (for herself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. LONG, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. FOXX, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mrs. FISCHBACH, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER):

H.R. 6702. A bill to require more accurate reporting of abortion drug prescribing and related adverse events, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LEVIN OF MICHIGAN (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BUSH, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. CHU, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CRIST, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAHELE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILD, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. YARMUTH):

H. Res. 915. A resolution approving certain regulations to implement provisions of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 relating to labor-management relations with respect to employees of the House of Representatives covered under section 220(e), and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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. BARR (for himself, Miss RICE of New York, and Mrs. BEATTY):

H. Res. 916. A resolution expressing support for the annual Heart Valve Disease Awareness Day on February 22, 2022, coinciding with American Heart Month; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BOURDEAUX (for herself, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H. Res. 917. A resolution condemning the atrocities that occurred in Forsyth County, Georgia, in 1912 in which over 1,100 Black Americans were terrorized and driven out by white supremacist mobs, including dozens of Black Americans who owned land in the county, and reaffirming the House of Representatives' commitment to combating white supremacy, hatred, and injustice; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BOWMAN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. MENG, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. JONES, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ):

H. Res. 918. A resolution honoring the legacy of the Harlem Renaissance, a cultural, social, and political movement in American history; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. GREEN OF TEXAS (for himself, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. WATERS, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CHU, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois):

H. Res. 919. A resolution declaring unconditional war on racism and invidious discrimination and providing for the establishment of a Cabinet-level Department of Reconciliation charged with eliminating racism and invidious discrimination; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GREEN OF TEXAS (for himself, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COOPER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. BASS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. CHU, Mr. EVANS, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. JONES, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. MENG, Mr. LIEU, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H. Res. 920. A resolution calling on the Senate to remove the name of Richard B. Russell from the Russell Senate Office Building; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HAGEDORN (for himself, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. MACE, Mr. HERN, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. BUDD, Mr. ROSE, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. POSEY, Mr. MANN, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. STEUBE, and Mr. SMUCKER):

H. Res. 921. A resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to place a real time display of the United States total outstanding national debt in the House Chamber; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. JACOBS OF CALIFORNIA (for herself, Mr. MEIJER, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. MANN):

H. Res. 922. A resolution condemning the use of hunger as a weapon of war and recognizing the effect of conflict on global food security and famine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. HAGEDORN):

H. Res. 923. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Career and Technical Education Month; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. WEXTON (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. HINSON, Ms. DEAN, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. ELLZEY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. LIEU, Ms. TITUS, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. REED, Ms. CHU, Mr. KAHELE, Mrs. DINGELL, and Ms. MANNING):

H. Res. 924. A resolution expressing support for designation of the month of February 2022 as ''National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Ms. VAN DUYNE:
H.R. 6653.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GRIJALVA:
H.R. 6654.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Const. art. I, sec. 8, cl. 3

By Mr. BACON:
H.R. 6655.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BACON:
H.R. 6656.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BACON:
H.R. 6657.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 6658.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BOST:
H.R. 6659.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CICILLINE:
H.R. 6660.
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. AGUILAR:
H.R. 6661.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. BARRAGÁN:
H.R. 6662.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:
R.R. 6663.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States and Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution of the United States.
Article I, section 8 of the United State Constitution, which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; and provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia.

By Mr. BURCHETT:
H.R. 6664.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section VIII

By Mr. CAWTHORN:
H.R. 6665.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1. Section 8

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:
H.R. 6666.
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. COHEN:
H.R. 6667.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. COLE:
H.R. 6668.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 6669.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the powers enumerated under section 8 and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. DELAURO:
H.R. 6670.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to ''regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.''

By Mr. FITZGERALD:
H.R. 6671.
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. GARBARINO:
H.R. 6672.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas:
H.R. 6673.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GOODEN of Texas:
H.R. 6674.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises to pay the debts and provide for the common Defense and general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. Thus, Congress has the authority not only to increase taxes, but also, to reduce taxes to promote the general welfare of the United States of America and her citizens. Additionally, Congress has the Constitutional authority to regulate commerce among the States and with Indian Tribes, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. GOSAR:
H.R. 6675.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8

By Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER:
H.R. 6676.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Ms. JACOBS of California:
H.R. 6677.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. JAYAPAL:
H.R. 6678.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:
H.R. 6679.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. KILMER:
H.R. 6680.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LAHOOD:
H.R. 6681.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. LAMB:
H.R. 6682.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:
H.R. 6683.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States of America

By Mrs. LEE of Nevada:
H.R. 6684.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 provides Congress with the power to ''lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises'' in order to ''provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States.''

By Mr. LEVIN of California:
H.R. 6685.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN:
H.R. 6686.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. NORTON:
H.R. 6687.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
clause 18 of section 8 article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PERRY:
H.R. 6688.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PERRY:
H.R. 6689
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PERRY:
H.R. 6690.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PERRY:
H.R. 6691.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PERRY:
H.R. 6692.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Ms. PINGREE:
H.R. 6693.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Ms. PORTER:
H.R. 6694.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution
By Mr. POSEY:
H.R. 6695.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1; Section 8; Clause 14: To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.
By Ms. PRESSLEY:
H.R. 6696.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:
H.R. 6697.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution
By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:
H.R. 6698.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:
H.R. 6699.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.
By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:
H.R. 6700.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1
By Mr. SMUCKER:
H.R. 6701.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 3 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution
By Mrs. WALORSKI:
H.R. 6702.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 25: Mr. BIGGS.
H.R. 72: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 82: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 336: Ms. WEXTON.
H.R. 426: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 465: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 481: Ms. DEAN, Mrs. FLETCHER, and Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 568: Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 748: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 841: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 997: Mr. CAWTHORN.
H.R. 1012: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 1282: Mr. COHEN, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, and Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 1297: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia and Ms. BOURDEAUX.
H.R. 1496: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. MOORE of Utah, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 1577: Ms. PLASKETT.
H.R. 1579: Mr. KAHELE and Mr. VELA.
H.R. 1639: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 1744: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 1813: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 1931: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 1946: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 2192: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 2209: Mr. COMER and Mr. STEIL.
H.R. 2269: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 2307: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2377: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 2525: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 2558: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 2565: Mr. CAWTHORN.
H.R. 2670: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 2773: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
H.R. 2820: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 3079: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 3089: Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 3105: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 3173: Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 3259: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 3335: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 3337: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 3466: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 3525: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 3577: Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. ISSA, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 3652: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 3897: Ms. ROSS, Ms. WILD, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 3906: Ms. BASS and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 3940: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 3982: Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 4134: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 4137: Mr. NEGUSE and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H.R. 4268: Mr. PANETTA and Mr. MRVAN.
H.R. 4379: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 4428: Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 4693: Mr. FALLON, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 4700: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 4728: Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 4766: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 4792: Ms. HERRELL.
H.R. 4828: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 4853: Mrs. AXNE, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. SOTO, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 4878: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 4921: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 4989: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 5096: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 5254: Mr. KATKO, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 5344: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 5349: Mr. DUNCAN, Ms. MACE, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 5453: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
H.R. 5468: Mr. RUIZ, Ms. MATSUI, and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 5497: Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. DELGADO, and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 5502: Mr. ALLRED, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 5526: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 5585: Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 5607: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 5727: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 5770: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 5775: Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 5811: Mr. BABIN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. NORMAN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. CLOUD.
H.R. 5819: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 5915: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 5919: Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 5974: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 5994: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 5999: Mr. ALLRED, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 6010: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 6101: Mr. JACOBS of New York.
H.R. 6132: Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
H.R. 6201: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 6267: Ms. TENNEY, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Mr. ZELDIN.
H.R. 6270: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 6278: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 6299: Mr. BROOKS.
H.R. 6302: Mr. DEUTCH and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 6319: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 6338: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. WILD, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
H.R. 6341: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 6367: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
H.R. 6397: Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 6403: Mr. MEIJER and Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 6408: Mr. DELGADO.
H.R. 6411: Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. SWALWELL.
H.R. 6434: Mr. WESTERMAN.
H.R. 6442: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 6448: Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 6471: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 6491: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 6522: Mr. CLINE, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. JACOBS of New York.
H.R. 6534: Mr. LATTA, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. MANN, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, and Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 6536: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
H.R. 6540: Mr. NORMAN, Mr. MAST, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 6546: Ms. DEAN.
H.R. 6552: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 6557: Mr. LAMB.
H.R. 6573: Mr. COHEN, Mr. PANETTA, and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 6577: Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 6592: Ms. LETLOW, Mr. PENCE, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. FALLON.
H.R. 6599: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 6610: Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. FALLON.
H.R. 6615: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK and Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 6619: Mr. ELLZEY.
H.R. 6625: Mr. GROTHMAN and Mr. JACOBS of New York.
H.R. 6635: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 6637: Mr. YOUNG.
H. Res. 366: Miss RICE of New York, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. CURTIS, and Mr. CRIST.
H. Res. 404: Ms. BOURDEAUX and Mr. DUNCAN.
H. Res. 878: Mr. BACON.
H. Res. 881: Mr. DELGADO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. RYAN, Mr. ESTES, Mr. KAHELE, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Mr. WALBERG.
H. Res. 907: Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 1440: Ms. STEFANIK.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022 No. 26

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. 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.

Eternal God, who teaches us obedience, show us the right path that we may glorify Your wonderful Name. In times of distress, restore our strength and make us more than victorious because of Your great love, wisdom, and power.

Today, keep our lawmakers true and sincere as they strive to please You in all they think, say, and do.

Inspire them to claim Your great and precious promises. May they embrace Your promise in the 84th Psalm, verse 11, which says, You will not withhold any good thing from those who walk with integrity.

Continue to sustain our Senators with Your faithfulness.

We pray in Your precious 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Douglas R. Bush, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, before I get into my remarks, just some brief housekeeping.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR EN BLOC

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I understand that there are three bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3600) to improve the cybersecurity of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 3076) to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 6617) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, those are all bills that we hope to move forward, and so that is why I have rule XIV'd them.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

POSTAL REFORM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, by a margin—a large margin—of 342 to 92, Congress took the first steps toward creating the most important upgrade to our post office in decades by passing a bipartisan reform package that has been years in the making.

With an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote in the House, it is my intention for the Senate to quickly take up and pass this bipartisan, bicameral Postal reform bill. We hope to take action here on the floor and pass the bill before we go to the Presidents Day recess.

The post office is, quite simply, one of the most important institutions of American life. Every day, tens of millions of Americans, veterans, small businesses, people living in rural communities, seniors rely on the Postal Service for their medicines and prescriptions, for getting essential goods, for voting, for correspondence, for their livelihoods, and to get close to one another on special occasions like birthdays and anniversaries and things like that.

But, nevertheless, our Postal Service has needed reform for over a decade. Its budgets are severely strained, its delivery services are overwhelmed, and the

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

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disruptions unleashed by the internet have made it harder for it to meet its obligations to the American people and to its own employees.

Every one of us has heard objections about letters arriving far too late. In many instances, whether they be checks that people depend on for their livelihoods or prescription drugs or whatever, these complaints are growing and growing and growing.

The bipartisan Postal reform bill offers a much needed reset. It will guarantee delivery services continue 6 days a week; it will put the post office on a path back towards solvency; and it will ensure that we take care of our dedicated Postal workers while also saving the post office over $50 billion.

Let me summarize again. If this legislation is passed, it would ensure continued 6-day delivery service, make deliveries more efficient and timely, and will put the post office on a path to stability.

I want to recognize my colleagues who have made it possible for this legislation to move forward. First, I thank my friend and colleague Senator PETERS, chairman of the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, for his leadership in bringing this bill together.

I also want to thank Ranking Member PORTMAN for working across the aisle on this commonsense reform bill.

And I want to thank all my House colleagues who worked assiduously for a long, long time pushing for portal reform. Both the chair and the ranking member of the relevant committees supported the bill on the floor of the House yesterday.

I have always said Democrats will work on a bipartisan basis whenever we can pass commonsense legislation that will improve the lives of the American people.

Last year, bipartisan cooperation helped clear the way for such things as the historic Anti-Asian Hate Crimes bill, a much needed competition bill, and our bipartisan infrastructure package.

This work period alone, we have already made great progress on bipartisan priorities, like ending forced arbitration for sexual harassment and assault. As I have mentioned, we will soon act on the post office.

And I expect both sides will support passage of the short-term CR that will keep the Federal Government open before next week's deadline.

I want to thank the appropriators from both sides of the aisle for working in good faith, and I am optimistic that soon they will arrive at an agreement for an omnibus package, which is far more preferable to the alternative of a yearlong CR.

We are getting very, very close to coming to an agreement on top-line numbers, and as I said, I am more optimistic than I have been in a very long time that we will get an omnibus bill done for government spending for the rest of the year.

So all these priorities—forced arbitration, Postal reform, and government funding—are bipartisan items that I expect the Senate will act on before the recess.

As I have always said from my first day as majority leader, we will work in a bipartisan way whenever we can. We did it in our first year with things like the Anti-Asian hate crimes legislation, the competition bill, and the bipartisan infrastructure package. And these 2 weeks now represent a productive continuation of that commitment.

So on this issue, I am optimistic that very soon we will see the first major reform of America's Postal system in decades. It will be a win for our dedicated Postal workers and for the American people who rely on the post office every single day.

FORCED ARBITRATION

Mr. President, on forced arbitration, before the end of the week, it is my intention to have the Senate take action on one of the most important workplace reforms that we have seen in decades—eliminating forced arbitration for sexual harassment and assault.

Yesterday, I sat down with my Republican colleagues, Senators LINDSEY GRAHAM and JONI ERNST, and we worked out an agreement on a few outstanding issues that will clear the path for the Senate, we believe, to hold a vote very soon on this issue. I want to thank them for their good faith and cooperation. And I especially want to thank my friend and colleague from New York, Senator GILLIBRAND, for being the leader on this important issue for so, so long.

For decades, it has been common practice for employers to tuck arbitration clauses into the fine print of employment contracts. Today, these clauses effectively function as preconditions for getting hired to a new job. Most workers may not even realize what they have signed on to until it is too late, after the fact.

Today, we can no longer ignore that forced arbitration has proven immensely harmful when it comes to sexual harassment and sexual assault. When workers—almost always women—face abuse or harassment at the hands of their employers, forced arbitration immediately limits their options for remedy. The deck is stacked against them from the start, and thus abusers rarely face true accountability. That is awful and must change.

And all of it is going to change very soon. By passing bipartisan legislation to end forced arbitration for sexual harassment and assault, we will ensure that those who face abuse will have the freedom to exercise their basic right to pursue action against harmful employers in court. This is long, long overdue, and I want to commend both sides for working together to getting us close to the finish line. I expect we will hold a vote on this to pass this legislation in the very near future, and the benefits of the legislation will be felt across the country and last for a very, very long time.

Bottom line, ending forced arbitration for sexual harassment and assault is about making our workplaces safer, holding abusive employers accountable, and making sure that every American can exercise their right to seek justice in a court of law.

SENATE BUSINESS

Mr. President, finally, on Senate business, concerning the activity on the floor today, the Senate is going to have another busy workday as we continue confirming Presidential nominations to the administration and onto the Federal bench.

Today, three rollcall votes are scheduled on the nominations of both the head of the U.S. International Development Finance Corp and the President's pick for Assistant Secretary of the Army.

But tonight we are very likely to add additional rollcall votes to complete the confirmation of several pending nominations. These votes will likely take us into the early evening, but they are necessary in order to confirm nominees.

I will add that until this past year, these nominees almost always have been approved through unanimous consent. Unfortunately, a few people on the other side are holding it up and making us vote on each of these, but vote we must.

Once again, though, to move things along, I ask my colleagues to cast their votes quickly tonight, to remain in their seats or near the floor as much as possible, and to be flexible in order to help move things along as quickly as possible on the Senate floor, as we did last week.

We did a good job voting efficiently last week despite the large number of votes. So I ask everyone to continue at that pace tonight as needed.

STOCK TRADING

Mr. President, finally, off the floor, I want to reiterate a brief point I made yesterday regarding stock trading and Members of Congress. I believe this is an important issue that Congress should address, and it is something that has clearly raised interest from both sides of the aisle over the past few weeks.

As I said yesterday, there are a number of Senators with various proposals, and I have asked my Democratic colleagues to come together and come up with a single bill this Chamber can work on. I hope we can pass something. I want to encourage my colleagues on the Democratic side to reach out across the aisle. Some of the proposals—we have a whole bunch—have bipartisan support.

This is something the Senate should address. Hopefully, we can act on it soon, and hopefully it can be done in a bipartisan way, like many of the bills we are looking at this week.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

CRIME

Mr. MCCONNELL. While Washington Democrats spent 2021 distracted by their reckless taxing-and-spending spree, violent criminals were preying on the American people. Millions of Americans' neighborhoods descended into chaos and violence around them.

After the nationwide murder rate saw its biggest jump in more than 100 years in 2020, at least 12 major cities set their own alltime homicide records in 2021. Rates of carjackings have doubled, tripled, and even quadrupled in major metro areas.

My hometown of Louisville set a new alltime murder record last year of 188 homicides. Twenty-four of the victims were children. At one point last year, a staggering 65 percent of our homicides were going unsolved. Louisville is now averaging one carjacking every 42 hours. Yesterday, I hosted the FBI special agent in charge of the Louisville field office for a meeting here in the Capitol. We discussed these issues at length.

One survey last year found that Americans believe violent crime is the No. 1 major crisis facing our country. More citizens called violent crime a major crisis than COVID. When Americans were asked about President Biden's handling of law enforcement and criminal justice, the President polls almost 20 points underwater.

The American people know this crime wave is not some spontaneous event. It has been fed and fueled in multiple ways by the Democratic Party's far-left turn. For example, liberal activists and many elected Democrats have spent almost 2 years trying to smear—smear—the entire profession of policing with the actions of a few bad actors.

We know that anti-police culture wars invite more crime. It is a fact. A prominent scholar—who, incidentally, was the youngest African-American professor to ever get tenure at Harvard—has proven that anti-police outcry directly results in more crime, including homicides.

Many jurisdictions have entertained financial attacks on police departments to match the rhetorical attacks. Literally just yesterday, a prominent House Democrat insisted to the press that the far left will not be dropping or diluting their message of ''defund the police.''

Meanwhile, our brave men and women in law enforcement are literally—literally—under attack. While too many politicians take aim at our brave police officers in a political sense, violent criminals are taking aim at them in a literal sense. The number of cop killings shot up nearly 60 percent last year to a two-decade high.

In Louisville, Jefferson County Sheriff's Deputy Brandon Shirley was shot and killed last summer. It is believed he was ambushed while wearing his uniform.

The streets of New York City were packed full with heroes a few days ago as fellow officers mourned two of their colleagues who had been shot and killed.

It is not just regular citizens going about their normal days who need this violent crime epidemic to stop; our brave men and women in blue also need very badly for it to stop. But, within the justice system, leftwing activists have insinuated themselves into prosecutorial roles throughout America and are making ''soft on crime'' actually their official policy.

The State's attorney in Baltimore announced last year she intended to stop prosecuting minor drug and prostitution cases.

New York City's new district attorney said last month he would not pursue charges for marijuana misdemeanors, trespassing, and resisting arrest, among others. After a huge backlash, he tried to walk some of this back.

Chain stores like Walgreens have had to close locations in San Francisco because constant, unpunished theft and shoplifting have become a fact of life in that city.

Another example is almost too sad and ironic for words. In Wisconsin last November, a repeat offender who was out on bond drove his car into a Christmas parade and murdered six people. His victims included an 8-year-old child and a group of grandmothers.

Well, one jurisdiction over in Milwaukee County has one of the most prominent soft-on-crime liberal prosecutors in the entire country. He has spent years waging a national campaign urging prosecutors to actually go easy on repeat criminals like this killer. A few years back, he even admitted soft-on-crime policies would cost innocent lives but said he was willing to make the trade.

Here is what he had to say:

> Is there going to be an individual I divert, or I put into [a] treatment program, who's going to go out and kill somebody? You bet. Guaranteed. It's guaranteed to happen. It does not invalidate the overall approach.

These backward, pro-crime attitudes aren't just infecting local DAs' offices; they also seem to be largely defining the Biden Department of Justice. Rachael Rollins is the former Massachusetts DA who spent her last job trying to wipe entire categories of crimes off the enforcement rolls. This earned her a promotion to U.S. attorney from President Biden, which every Senate Democrat supported. There is Vanita Gupta, now an Associate Attorney General, who had previously advocated for sweeping drug decriminalization and expressed her support for efforts to ''decrease police budgets.'' There is Kristen Clarke, also confirmed by Senate Democrats to work at DOJ, who echoed calls to ''invest less in police.'' These are President Biden's picks to top jobs at Main Justice.

I just had to place a hold on the nominee to be U.S. attorney for Minnesota because the person recently acting in that job recommended an unusually soft sentence below the minimum guideline to a convicted fatal arsonist because the arsonist was taking part in a far-left political riot at the time. I will need written assurance the nominee to succeed this person will not continue this jaw-dropping practice and lessen criminals' sentences so long as the political violence they commit happens to be leftwing.

The modern Democratic Party has convinced itself that order—order—is actually oppression and anarchy is actually compassion. This is totally wrong. Tolerating lawlessness and anarchy is not compassionate. It doesn't help vulnerable communities for politicians to passively watch them devolve into literal war zones. The actual residents of these communities know this best of all.

Last summer, even after months of anti-police rhetoric from the left, when a poll asked the residents of Detroit about their concerns, almost five times more people said public safety than police reform. It was even more lopsided among African-American residents. They named public safety eight times more than police reform.

Last summer, NPR interviewed a man who had committed terrible crimes as a young adult, served time, turned his life around, and now works with young men in prison. The reporter asked how he had gotten caught up in criminal violence. Where did his childhood veer off course?

Here was the man's explanation—a direct quote. Here is what he said:

> It was my environment. . . . When I go outside every day, as soon as I walk out my front door, I'm entering a war zone . . . from sun-up to sundown, robberies and murders and carjacking and extortion . . . [I] became a product of my environment.

So this man's problem was not an evil justice system that was out to get him; it wasn't that his neighborhood had an excess of law and order; the problem was a lack of—a lack of—law and order.

It is not compassionate to let vulnerable kids grow up in war zones because Democrats feel bad putting violent criminals in prison, where they belong.

Let me say that again. It is not compassionate to let vulnerable kids grow up in war zones because Democrats feel guilty putting violent criminals behind bars, where they belong.

Neither is it compassionate to make innocent, law-abiding citizens across America live in fear because liberal public servants won't do their jobs.

The answer to this crimewave isn't slashing law enforcement budgets, it isn't replacing cops with social workers, and it isn't far-left gun grabbers coming after the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens. Here is the answer: Elected officials need to drop the

soft-on-crime nonsense and give innocent American families the protection they deserve.

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

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

RECOGNIZING THE COFFEYVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE RED RAVENS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I rise this morning to recognize and congratulate the Coffeyville Community College Red Ravens men's basketball team on winning the 2021 National Junior College Athletic Association Division 1 men's basketball championship. Kansas has an unparalleled history of college athletes, and I am proud to recognize the Coffeyville Red Ravens' contribution to our State's many accomplishments.

On April 24, 2021, the Coffeyville Red Ravens brought home their first national championship trophy in nearly six decades. As an underdog in the national tournament with a No. 10 ranking, this accomplishment is a result of hard work, determination, and grit. During the championship game, freshman center Blaise Keita had a career high of 27 points, and Tylor Perry scored 18 points. Additionally, Blaise, Tylor, and Love Bettis were named to the All-Tournament team.

The honorable achievements of these players have earned rightful recognition for their commitment to excellence in college athletics. Athletics teach young men and women many valuable skills that serve them throughout their lives.

These lessons and this team's accomplishment were not possible without the leadership of Head Coach Jay Herkelman, who has been an instrumental member of the Red Ravens men's basketball program for nearly three decades. As a coach who has shown dedication to his players and his team, he has earned the title of the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association's ''Coach of the Year'' five times. Furthermore, congratulations to Coach Herkelman, who is only 1 win away from reaching the remarkable milestone of 700 wins with the Red Ravens.

I am pleased to have introduced a resolution with Congressman LATURNER and Senator MARSHALL on behalf of these dedicated student athletes, coaches, team, and school, and to have had it unanimously pass the U.S. Senate last week.

Thank you to the players, the coaches, and the staff of the Coffeyville Community College Red Ravens men's basketball team for bringing this win home.

Congratulations to all in Southeast Kansas, South Central Kansas, those who are students, those who are faculty, and those who lead this college. We are proud of their success.

The Coffeyville community has much to take pride in this strong program, and I look forward to their continued success.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

SUPPLY CHAIN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, one of the big drivers of our inflation crisis was Democrats' decision to flood the economy with unnecessary government money last March with their $1.9 trillion spending bill.

Another contributor to the problem has been supply chain bottlenecks. Americans are getting pretty used to long delays in receiving the goods they have ordered, to big holes on grocery store shelves, and to being unable to rely on a store to keep a product in stock consistently.

Since the start of the pandemic, keeping goods in stock has been a challenge, but, as with the larger inflation crisis, the White House has seemed largely uninterested in addressing the problem. ''The tragedy of the treadmill that's delayed''—that was a quote of the White House Press Secretary, joking in October, a typically tone-deaf comment from an administration often oblivious to the difficulties facing ordinary Americans.

In fact, supply chain issues are not a minor inconvenience; they are a real problem. It is not easy for an already overstretched mom or dad to have to run around town trying to find essential items—items they could previously rely on one store, at least, to have in stock. Businesses are struggling to maintain their profit margins and meet the demands of their customers, particularly small businesses, which have fewer resources to work around supply chain problems. Of course, supply chain problems are helping to fuel the price hikes Americans have been facing on everything from food and clothing to furniture, to used cars and trucks.

These are facts that seem lost on the administration, which has largely ignored supply chain issues and the inflation crisis in favor of focusing on pet projects: a massive tax-and-spending spree and election legislation that it thinks will boost Democrat chances in the fall.

On top of this, the administration has taken more than one action that is making or seems likely to make our supply chain problems even worse.

Earlier this week, for example, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration implemented its entry-level driver training rule, which substantially expands training requirements for drivers seeking to obtain a commercial driver's license. The new rule is likely to make it significantly more challenging for trucking companies to train new drivers, particularly for smaller trucking companies, which may struggle to afford the enhanced training costs.

The trucking industry has been hit hard by the supply chain crisis, with drivers working longer hours with fewer resources to keep goods moving across the country. They have been heroes. This makes it a very bad time to impose new burdens on truckers and tie up trucking companies with additional redtape.

The administration should have delayed the implementation of this rule until the worst of the supply chain crisis eases. Unfortunately, the administration decided to push ahead anyway, and now truckdrivers and trucking companies will face additional challenges, which will likely exacerbate supply chain problems.

The Canada-U.S. cross-border truck-driver vaccine mandate is another administration action that has created new pressures on a trucking industry already stretched thin thanks to the supply chain crisis. I am a strong supporter of vaccines, but mandating vaccines for cross-border truckdrivers has only served to worsen supply chain bottlenecks. You just need to look at the current situation in Canada to see the evidence of that. Truckdrivers do not pose a high risk of COVID transmission since they spend most of their workday alone. This mandate's main legacy looks likely to be increasing the supply chain problems we are facing.

Then, of course, there is the administration's hostile attitude toward conventional energy production. The administration might not like it, but the fact of the matter is that our economy will continue to rely on conventional energy like gasoline for a while yet. Discouraging conventional energy production, as the administration has done, is doing nothing but worsening our inflation and supply chain crisis and driving up energy bills for American families.

Energy prices have a substantial effect on prices in the store and on the availability of goods. The higher energy prices are, the more expensive it will be to produce and transport goods. The more it costs to produce and transport goods, the higher the final price of the goods is likely to be.

The administration's hostility to traditional energy production has helped drive energy prices up, which is aggravating, making worse, our supply chain and inflation crises.

Instead of imposing unhelpful new regulations, it would be nice to see the administration turn its focus to meaningful measures to address the supply chain crisis, like those in the bipartisan legislation I introduced last week with Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR.

For some time now, I have heard reports of ocean carriers refusing to

transport certain goods—often American agricultural products, which impacts my State of South Dakota—in favor of more lucrative cargoes. Our legislation is designed to address this problem and create a more level playing field for American producers.

Our bill gives the Federal Maritime Commission greater authority to respond to discriminatory ocean carrier practices, and it provides the FMC with tools to more quickly resolve detention and demurrage disputes.

This legislation will bring greater efficiency and transparency to a process that leaves many shippers frustrated—especially small businesses—and bring long-term, positive changes to the maritime supply chain, which I hope will benefit exporters, importers, and consumers alike.

These are the kinds of measures the White House should be focusing on, measures that open up the supply chain instead of weighing it down with government mandates and regulations.

Given the administration's general lack of concern with the supply chain and inflation crises facing the American people, I don't have a lot of hope that the White House is going to do much to address either of these problems, but I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress from both parties wherever possible to advance measures that will ease our supply chain problems and help to get back to a situation where goods move smoothly around our country and around the world.

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

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

NOMINATION OF RETA JO LEWIS

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the nomination of Reta Jo Lewis to serve as the President and Chair of the Ex-Im Bank of the United States. It is my understanding that we are likely to have a vote later today on her confirmation, and I want to address this.

And let me start by underscoring why, frankly, I don't think we should have an Ex-Im Bank, and let me explain why. First of all, let's start with the Ex-Im's claim about how it does business. The Ex-Im Bank maintains that, when it provides financing for these transactions that it engages in, it only takes risks that private lenders are either unable or unwilling to take.

Now, we ought to stop ourselves right there and say: Well, wait a minute. If the private sector is not willing to take these risks, why should we force taxpayers to take these risks—because the Ex-Im Bank is, of course, backed by American taxpayers. So that is question No. 1.

But it actually gets worse than that. The Ex-Im Bank also insists that it only makes safe bets; it only engages in very low-risk, safe transactions. But, of course, it is impossible to do both, right? Ex-Im can't only take transactions so risky that no one else will do them but at the same time only do safe transactions. That is an obvious contradiction, and that is a contradiction that is at the heart of Ex-Im's business model.

So how do they do business? The reason they do business is they systematically underprice the risk. That is why Ex-Im gets the transaction instead of the private sector. That is why borrowers go to Ex-Im instead of any number of private financial institutions that are happy to offer the deal but only under terms that generate an adequate return on the risk.

This is why, for instance, the largest, most successful, most profitable banks in America go to Ex-Im for loan guarantees—because Ex-Im's terms are too good to be true, at least too good to be true in the private sector.

Let me just give a very recent example of just how egregious this is. In 2021, the Ex-Im Bank financed a deal in which they guaranteed an $82 million loan made by JPMorgan, the bank, to Qantas, the Australian airline, for the purpose of buying jet engines from General Electric. Now, let's think about this. We have JPMorgan, the largest bank in America—extremely profitable, enormously successful, all the capital in the world. We have Qantas, which is one of the most successful and profitable airlines in the world. They are the largest airline in Australia. And, of course, General Electric is one of the largest industrial companies in the world.

Can anybody actually, with a straight face, suggest that any of these companies can't borrow money privately? Seriously? All three of them access the capital markets every day. They have access to all the financing in the world. Yet taxpayers guaranteed this transaction because it was available. They don't need any subsidy from American taxpayers, none whatsoever. Yet this is what Ex-Im does.

Now, one of the claims that we hear from Ex-Im and from some supporters of Ex-Im is that Ex-Im plays an essential role; without them, we just wouldn't have the exports that we have; we depend on Ex-Im to export products.

Well, the problem with that argument is the vast, overwhelming majority of American exports are done without Ex-Im. Now, we went back and looked at the annual export data from 2007 through 2020. In that period of time, the highest percentage of U.S. exports that were financed with Ex-Im financing happened to be in 2012. Do you know what that percentage was? It was 2.3 percent. That is the value of the exports that were financed by Ex-Im Bank.

And that was, by the way, when Ex-Im had everything going for it. It was fully operational. It had a quorum on the Board. It had not reached its lending limit. So it was doing business without constraints. Yet it does this little, tiny sliver of American exports.

The fact is, we are the second biggest exporting economy in the world behind China. The United States is No. 2 in total exports of goods. We are No. 1 in the world in terms of value added, and we do it almost entirely without Ex-Im financing—at least 97.7 percent in Ex-Im's best year. So the argument that somehow American exporters need Ex-Im to survive is patently false.

It gets worse, though. Now Ex-Im wants to expand into domestic financing. Ex-Im has been tasked by the Biden administration with developing a new domestic financing program to expand the reach of the Bank. The proposed domestic financing program would support creating or expanding domestic manufacturing businesses and infrastructure projects as long as there is the expectation that some arbitrary portion of the goods will ultimately be exported.

Can you imagine? So now the Ex-Im Bank is going to provide domestic financing. Gee, if only we had banks in America. If only we had capital markets in America so that we could provide financing for these transactions. No, we need the Ex-Im Bank to do it. We need taxpayers to go into the domestic banking business, on top of everything else.

It is unbelievable. This isn't just mission creep. This is like mission sprint. Of course, it completely subverts the congressional intent. The intent was to match financing that is provided for exports around the world. This has nothing to do with that. There is no reason in the world that Ex-Im should be providing domestic financing—none. We live in the most developed capital markets of the world. We have a huge, enormously successful banking system. There is absolutely no need for this. And the only way they will get business is to, once again, underprice the risk so that taxpayers do not get properly compensated for the risks that they take.

Now, let me get to the specifics of our nominee. I am concerned that Ms. Lewis is not going to protect the U.S. taxpayers from this inherently risky construct. For one example, the Biden administration has suggested doubling Ex-Im's statutory default cap from 2 percent to 4 percent. So what does this mean? So under current statute, Ex-Im has got a limit of how much of its balance sheet can be in default. It is 2 percent.

Well, lately, the default rate has been creeping up. In fact, it has tripled, and it is very close to 2 percent. So the obvious solution is to do something about the credit quality of the balance sheet, but that is not the Biden administration's solution. They just want to double the permissible amount of losses. Well, I have no reason to believe that Ms. Lewis would object to that at all.

In fact, I suspect she would embrace that.

I am also concerned about the background she brings to this job. Ms. Lewis does have some experience in international policy, but she does not have the financial background that should be a prerequisite for serving as the President of a big bank. And without such a background, she is going to inevitably rely heavily on Ex-Im's staff. As I said, I am very concerned that she is going to support this domestic financing program of the administration.

So for these reasons and others, I am urging my colleagues to vote against the confirmation of Ms. Lewis as President of the Ex-Im Bank.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator MURRAY and I be allowed to complete our remarks before the scheduled rollcall votes.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3604

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, for the past 2 years, our Nation's kids have suffered. They have suffered socially, academically, and psychologically at the hands of Democratic politicians, the Biden administration, and their political bosses in the teachers unions.

Although kids are at the lowest risk of hospitalization and death from the Wuhan coronavirus, they have endured and they continue to endure some of the most excessive, extreme, and suffocating COVID restrictions of any population in our country. This treatment has been nothing short of cruel. The politicians and the neurotic public health obsessives who enforce these policies should all hang their heads in shame.

There are few things in a kid's life, outside of family and church, that are more important to them than their school. For them, open and happy schools are precious. But for teachers union bosses like Randi Weingarten, they are just useful hostages.

For the better part of a year, teachers unions shut down our schools while they shook down politicians for more funding and benefits that they promised would allow them to reopen safely. Yet they kept schools closed. They kept kids masked.

Desperate parents watched their socially isolated kids fall behind while they engaged in Zoom schools, but the unions still dragged their feet.

When schools finally reopened, our kids faced insane coronavirus protocols. They weren't allowed to sit with friends at lunch. They weren't allowed to play at recess. They had to eat outside on freezing-cold days. And every moment of every day at every school, they were forced to wear a mask.

Confused and hyper kids naturally often rebelled, and they have been reprimanded and they have been punished for simply trying to play, trying to make friends, trying to breathe a little easier.

Some parents may think that masks work for their kids, and that is fine. If they want to, they can put their kids in a mask. They should be able to choose. But under Democratic-forced masking policies, parents have no choice at all. Tragically, but predictably—not just predictably—predicted—these absurd policies have had severe psychological effects on our kids. Suicide and mental health problems have skyrocketed in the past 2 years. Grades have plummeted, while depression has surged. And as is so often the case, those with the least have suffered the most.

But when parents dared to complain on behalf of their kids, they were condemned by teachers union bosses and by Democratic politicians as anti-science and extremists. They were investigated when Attorney General Merrick Garland sicced the Feds on parents who were simply going to school boards to protest these stupid policies. The Secretary of Education threatened to withdraw Federal funding from States and schools who did not have mask mandates.

Thankfully, the tide has begun to turn. Sometimes I hear the phrase ''the science changed.'' The science hasn't changed. What has changed is that there is an election coming and Democrats have seen the polling on this question. Now they are running scared, and they want to pretend that they didn't force your kid to wear a mask for 2 years.

You see it in States that are run entirely by Democrats: California, New Jersey, New York, the President's own Delaware. Just yesterday, across the river in Virginia, the State senate, to include many Democrats, voted not just to allow parents a choice but to prohibit mask mandates by local schools.

Yet, in many places, forced masking remains. Kids as young as 2, 3, 4 are still being forced to wear hot, restrictive, and ineffective masks for hours on end. Yes, ineffective because almost all those kids are wearing cloth masks, which don't even work. And that is not me speaking; that is the CDC speaking. These masks don't even work. Yet the kids are forced to wear them all day long.

I can tell you that most Democratic politicians don't think they work either. How do we know that? Look at the candidate for Governor in Georgia, Stacey Abrams—or maybe I should say the Governor of Georgia, since she still refuses to concede the 2018 election and many of my Democratic colleagues have endorsed her view that she is somehow the shadow Governor of Georgia. Just last week, photos emerged of her sitting in classrooms with masked kids grinning ear to ear, the only person not wearing a mask in the classroom.

Also, Gavin Newsom, the Governor of California, was yucking it up at SoFi Stadium when the Rams played the 49ers, taking pictures—without a mask—with Magic Johnson and a bunch of other celebrities, while he enforced one of the most onerous mask mandates in the country.

What about Eric Garcetti, whose nomination to be the Ambassador to India is in front of the Senate right now, who said that pictures of him without a mask on are fine because he was holding his breath—I guess like Bill Clinton, who didn't inhale.

Barack Obama, pictures recently emerged of him standing outside—outside—on the beach, without a mask, while all the peons who are building his multimillion-dollar beach compound were forced to wear a mask in front of him.

And I will let you in on something. The same goes for Democratic Senators. I was in a hearing this week. It was in a small, closed room. Not a single Democratic Senator wore a mask in that hearing in that room. The catch is, the TV cameras weren't on, so there wouldn't be video of them sitting in that closed room without a mask on.

But masks in school have become symbols of control and fear. They are not instruments of public health. It is past time for the mask mandates to end and for parents across this country to have a choice. That is why I am asking the Senate to pass my legislation today to require schools that receive Federal funding to give parents a simple choice on whether their kids should wear a mask.

If my Democratic colleagues will join me, we can get this done now, today. That is why I urge them to support this bill. And I ask, as if in legislative session, unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3604, which is at the desk; further, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I have said before that we all want to make sure our schools can stay safely open for in-person learning. But based on this legislation, it is not clear that is true for all of my Republican colleagues.

Look, this is straightforward. If you want education decisions to happen at the local level, you do not tie the hands of State and local officials when they are trying to keep their students and educators safe. And if you want schools to be able to stay safely open and bring some stability and certainty back to our classrooms, you don't cut schools off from the resources they need just because you think you know better than the parents and local officials about how this pandemic is progressing in their community or how they should use tools like masks.

I am a former preschool teacher, parent advocate, and school board member. But let's be honest, you don't need classroom experience to see that right now the very last thing we should be doing is denying schools the tools and resources to help kids learn safely. The data is clear. We have real work to do to help our students make up for an incredibly tough 2 years.

Now, Democrats actually passed legislation—the American Rescue Plan—which invests specifically in helping our students recover academically and mentally. The proposal from the Senator from Arkansas would put our students' recovery and safe in-person learning in jeopardy. It would take those important public health decisions, which should be based on local conditions, away from those communities and slash funding for students and schools right when they need us the most.

Now is not the time to pull the rug out from under students in schools. Parents, educators, and, most of all, kids have been through enough. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I would simply reply to the remarks of the Senator from Washington, she asserted that I or others who oppose these mask mandates think that we know better. That is the whole point, though. It is not that we think we know better; I think that you, as a parent, know better. You know what is best for your child—not some Democratic politician, not some liberal superintendent, not some neurotic public health obsessive.

And, apparently, the Democrats have no problem using these Federal funds when it suits their neurotic policies. After all, the Department of Education last year threatened Federal funding for States and schools that did not permit mask mandates. The whole point of this exercise is this: the Democrats who think they know better than parents to make the choices for the parents' kids.

I am disappointed today that my Democratic colleagues want to continue to see kids forced to wear masks in schools across America, but, trust me, change is coming one way or another. It will be because Democratic politicians, like Gavin Newsom, run for the hills or because the American people repudiate them all in November.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Scott A. Nathan, of Massachusetts, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation.

VOTE ON NATHAN NOMINATION

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

Mr. CARDIN. I ask for yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 72, nays 24, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 43 Ex.]

YEAS—72

Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Bennet	Hagerty	Risch
Blumenthal	Hassan	Romney
Blunt	Heinrich	Rosen
Booker	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Brown	Hirono	Sasse
Burr	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	Kelly	Schumer
Capito	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Cassidy	Manchin	Sullivan
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	McConnell	Thune
Cornyn	Menendez	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Toomey
Cramer	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Crapo	Murphy	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Warnock
Durbin	Ossoff	Warren
Feinstein	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Graham	Portman	Young

NAYS—24

Blackburn	Hoeven	Moran
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Paul
Braun	Inhofe	Rubio
Cotton	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Daines	Lee	Shelby
Ernst	Lummis	Tuberville
Fischer	Marshall	Wicker

NOT VOTING—4

Barrasso	Luján
Hawley	Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

(Mr. CASEY assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. HEINRICH assumed the Chair.)

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 498, Douglas R. Bush, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal, Catherine Cortez Masto, Richard J. Durbin, Jacky Rosen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mark Kelly, Benjamin L. Cardin, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Angus S. King, Jr., Patrick J. Leahy, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Gary C. Peters, Chris Van Hollen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Douglas R. Bush, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 95, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 44 Ex.]

YEAS—95

Baldwin	Grassley	Peters
Bennet	Hagerty	Portman
Blackburn	Hassan	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Risch
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Romney
Booker	Hirono	Rosen
Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Brown	Inhofe	Sasse
Burr	Johnson	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Kennedy	Shaheen
Carper	King	Shelby
Casey	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cassidy	Lankford	Smith
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lummis	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	Markey	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Menendez	Van Hollen
Daines	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Moran	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Ernst	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wicker
Fischer	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young
Graham	Paul	

NAYS—2

Hawley	Scott (FL)

NOT VOTING—3

Barrasso	Luján	Rounds

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 95, the nays are 2.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that upon disposition of the Bush nomination, the Senate vote on confirmation of the Coffey nomination.

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

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here again today to discuss the scheme by big Republican donor interests to capture and control our Supreme Court. Today, I am going to put a little spotlight on ongoing scheme operations.

As we all know, Justice Stephen Breyer will retire at the end of this Supreme Court term. As the Biden administration selects a nominee, the scheme is shifting gears to attack her even before she has been named.

A dark money front group called the Judicial Crisis Network has already announced a multimillion-dollar ad blitz against Justice Breyer's unnamed replacement, and its first ad is already up. The ad's premise is that leftwing dark money is poised to capture our Supreme Court. I am not making that up. Think of a squid. When a squid senses danger, it squirts a jet of ink into the water. The squid ink creates confusion and distracts predators, and the squid sneaks off. This new ad from the Judicial Crisis Network is squid ink.

Let's start with just a quick review of the facts. Rightwing donor interests captured our Supreme Court under Donald Trump. They did it with dark money. They used the front group Judicial Crisis Network to launder off identities of big rightwing contributors. The deidentified contributions funded political campaign ads against Merrick Garland and for Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, and Barrett. Those are the facts. The road onto the Supreme Court for those three Justices was paved with dark money.

By the way, the checks were big. Four of the checks to Judicial Crisis Network were for $15 million or more. That is a big check. Because we don't know who those donors are or who that donor is—it could all be one donor—we don't know what business they had before the Court or why it was so worth it to them or him to spend $60 million to influence the makeup of the Court.

This new Judicial Crisis Network ad—the squid ink ad—is designed to confuse those rather conspicuous facts. They can hide who funded them, but they can't hide what they did; so, squid ink—distraction, misdirection. Their accusations of dark money corruption are a projection of the very scheme they themselves hatched and executed. As I have discussed previously in these speeches, this is a classic propaganda technique: You accuse your adversary of what you yourself have been doing.

Yes, it is maddening to have a phony front group use dark money to capture and corrupt our Supreme Court and turn it into the Court that dark money built. It is devilish, Vladimir Putin-style propaganda for that phony front group to then accuse others of exactly what it did—a false mirror of its own behavior.

By the way, that Judicial Crisis Network ad accusing a not-yet-chosen Supreme Court nominee of being a dark money stooge? Paid for with dark money. You can't make this stuff up.

Let's look at the Judicial Crisis Network. Start with the fact that ''Judicial Crisis Network'' does not exist. It is, legally speaking, a fiction. Who knew, right—an entity selling fiction that is itself a fiction. ''Judicial Crisis Network'' is actually a ''fictitious name''—that is a term under Virginia incorporation law—a fictitious name, one of several filed by an organization, a completely different organization, called the Concord Fund.

It gets even more tangled, as dark money schemes tend to be—they are a lot like a covert operation—so let's keep digging.

The Judicial Crisis Network actually used to exist. It was once the 501(c)(4) twin of a 501(c)(3) called the Judicial Education Project. That is the state of the art these days for dark money political mischief, a twinned 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4). Tax records list the same address for both entities—conveniently an address which happens to be just right down the hall, on the same floor, in the same building, as the Federalist Society.

This twinned organization trick allows donors to shift money in and out of different shady operations with zero disclosure, and it even gives donors a tax deduction to the 501(c)(3). You could pierce that corporate veil pretty easily.

All this schemery hides the donors behind the operation. It fools members of the press who don't bother to figure it out, and it helps dark money operatives like Leonard Leo, the central organizer of the scheme—the operative for the big dark money donors—to hide their hands and shuffle money secretly around.

Leonard Leo, you will recall, ran the donor turnstile at the Federalist Society that picked Justices Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, and Barrett. Then, at the tail end of the Trump administration, with no more Supreme Court appointments likely, Leo scuttled off to a new venture: CRC Advisors.

CRC Advisors was designed, as Axios reported, to ''funnel big money and expertise across the conservative movement.''

As an aside, CRC Advisors has an affiliate called CRC Strategies, which, among other things, brought us the infamous swift boat campaign against John Kerry—classy bunch.

Along with the inception of CRC Advisors, Judicial Crisis Network was quietly renamed the ''Concord Fund,'' and the Judicial Education Project was quietly renamed the ''85 Fund.''

These became twin 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(3) political mischief operations. Concord, as a 501(c)(4), would handle attack ads and PR. The 85 Fund, the 501(c)(3), would help mask Concord's operations and donors and provide tax deductibility.

So that was the original setup, the renaming. Then these newly named groups loaded up with all these fictitious names. They filed under Virginia law for permission to operate under fictitious names, and these are the fictitious names they registered to use.

First, Concord took its old name—its old name—and reregistered it as this new fictitious name. And so did 85 Fund, taking its old name, Judicial Education Project, and registering it as a fictitious name. Go figure why that was necessary.

Then they stood up new voter suppression projects under other fictitious names: Honest Elections Project Action and Honest Elections Project. Those two front groups—fictitious name front groups—are part of the dark money armada, along with Heritage Action and others, through which big rightwing donors orchestrated the anti-voting laws that have spread like a virus through Republican State legislatures. That didn't just happen. That was done. And as a Heritage Action employee admitted in a leaked video, they did it, quietly, through sentinels.

Concord also added another fictitious name, Free to Learn Action, and 85 Fund created the twin Free to Learn. These fronts are presumably to whip up the rightwing about so-called critical race theory when the big donors want.

Gobs of money pours into this propaganda machine. The 85 Fund's last tax filing shows $65 million in revenues, including one $48.5 million donation from a single, anonymous donor. If it is the same single, anonymous donor that contributed the over $15 million contributions to the Judicial Crisis Network before, that would put one donor over $100 million into this Court-capture scheme—and all that money for an organization with only one employee who draws a salary of over $100,000 per year.

So no surprise, then, that the 85 Fund channels lots of money back to the CRC mother ship. Its last tax filing shows over $12 million paid to Leo's CRC Advisors for so-called consulting/advertising services, and it distributed over $34 million to other unnamed groups, presumably in other areas of the scheme, in a big dark money shuffle.

We are still waiting for Concord Fund records for the most recent tax year, but the previous year's filing proves the Axios reporting is spot on. Concord's top independent contractor is CRC Advisors, paid over $4.2 million for consulting services. It is out of this pea-and-shell game switcheroo that the dark money Judicial Crisis Network ad emerges.

I have noticed recently—in fact, as recently as our last Judiciary Committee markup—that Republicans are currently reverting, often, to the same dark money line of attack as the Judicial Crisis Network. As we watch Republican Senators attack Democrat dark money, let's remember a few things. First, Republicans created, protected, and defended—and defend to this day—dark money. Republicans

block our efforts to get rid of dark money.

Republicans came first to the dark money game with billions of dark money dollars. Then, when we began to play by their rules—the rules they made, the rules they defend—they complained. I guess they hope that we will unilaterally disarm so they can pound us with dark money just as they did for years after their Republican Justices in Citizens United let the big money flow.

Well, unilateral disarmament isn't going to happen, but that is not the only reason for the squid ink. The falsehood of this ad serves to damn us all in the eyes of the public. The rightwing scheme reckons that Americans, frustrated and cynical about a slimy, dark money battle purportedly involving both sides, will tune out and turn away from what Justice Sotomayor has called the ''stench'' of partisanship emerging at the Supreme Court.

All this misdirection—squid ink—can then distract from their captured Court's record for the big scheme's donors. The ''Roberts Five'' have a pattern now, a pattern of 80—80—partisan 5-to-4 decisions, all benefiting easily identified Republican donor interests—an 80-to-0 record. It is a heck of a pattern.

And now they have a new rightwing, dark money supermajority to amp it up even further. It is no wonder polling shows that Americans believe the six-Justice Republican majority is motivated mainly by politics and that the Court's approval rating just hit an all-time low.

So a little distraction is in order. Cue the squid ink. Meanwhile, the Senate minority leader is reportedly urging his caucus to keep a low profile on Biden's nominee. I get it. When you have got your burglars inside merrily ransacking a house, the last thing you want is a noisy ruckus out on the front lawn. One liberal Justice exchanged for another isn't worth a fuss when the loot is being shoveled out the window to your gang.

If there was any honest concern about dark money on the Republican side, there is a really, really easy way to show it: support legislation to clean it up; put an end to it.

I have a bill, the DISCLOSE Act. It will end dark money in our politics and in our judiciary. Every single Senate Democrat has voted in favor of this DISCLOSE Act. Even the liberal groups that Judicial Crisis Network complains about are backing that bill.

So, my Republican friends, support it, pass the law, end the slimy, political, dark money era we now live in. They could do that, but I will make you a bet that they won't. Dark money power is too important a weapon for rightwing donors to abandon.

So, instead, Republicans in this Chamber filibuster that legislation—filibuster it—and dark money continues to corrupt our politics.

Brace yourselves, folks. Squid ink will flow in the weeks and months ahead. For the dark money forces squirting out the squid ink, the aim is defense, defense of their mighty prize: the Court that dark money built and that dances to their dark money tune.

To be continued.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I commend my colleague for talking about dark money. I was so curious this week when I saw—I think it was—a New York Times article about the amount of dark money that came from the Democratic side of the aisle this year far outpacing anything that Republicans had spent. So I hope he is going to be successful in dealing with some of his supporters on that side of the aisle.

CRIME AND BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, what I want to focus on today is a meeting that I had the opportunity to have last week with the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police and yesterday with Tennessee sheriffs who had come up.

And one of the things that they talked about repeatedly in these meetings is the recent crime spike. This is something on everybody's mind, and for good reason. The majority of America's 40 most populous cities saw an increase in homicides last year—40 most populous, increase, homicides. More officers were intentionally killed on the job than in any other year since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

This is why morale is low.

Shoplifting is surging, and the thieves are getting creative. Instead of stuffing merchandise in their clothing and smuggling it out the door, gangs of thieves are executing smash-and-grab raids. We are also seeing a spike in drug use. Overdose deaths were up 30 percent in 2020.

This is not trivial; it is not frivolous; it is not a laughing matter; and it is something you cannot just overlook. It is life.

And I am sorry to say that Tennessee hasn't escaped this terrible trend. In 2021, the homicide spike in Memphis set a new record. We lost more than 3,000 Tennesseans to drug overdoses in 2020.

Law enforcement officers take this personally because they see how quickly crime can destroy a community. Are they worried? Yes. Do they have reason to be worried? Absolutely. As I said, morale is low. Recruiting is hard.

But here is what struck me about my conversation with the police chiefs and the sheriffs. They don't only consider the local effects. They really see the big picture and the issue writ large for what it truly is.

You won't be surprised to know that the lack of security along our southern border came up more than once in these conversations. The chiefs, the officers see the ripple effects of the Biden administration's absolutely demoralizing failure to enforce the law.

On his first day in the White House, President Biden endorsed lawlessness when he made it harder for Border Patrol to secure the country. That stroke of a pen caused absolute chaos on our southern border.

Border Patrol detained more than 1.7 million migrants between January and September of 2021, and 1.1 million of those people were single adults. They were not families.

Those 1.7 million were just the ones we were able to catch. We will never know how many hundreds of thousands of ''got-aways'' made it into the interior of the country, nor do we know what they were bringing in with them that they were trying to evade the Border Patrol.

People and drugs are flowing across the border. Just last week, I came here to the floor and told the story of the Border Patrol's $7 million week. Between January 21 and January 28, 1 week, they seized 47 pounds of meth, 3,800 pounds of marijuana, and almost 20 pounds of cocaine—1 week.

Hopefully, those drug mules are behind bars, but, remember, those are just the drug mules we caught. We do not know what the ''got-aways'' were bringing in with them or how many drug mules there were or how many hundreds of women they were trafficking in for sex trafficking, for human trafficking, for gangs, for labor crews. We don't know.

My Democratic colleagues continue to spin the border crisis as a purely humanitarian issue, but what we are seeing along our southern border is lawbreaking. In many cases, it is dangerous criminal behavior. And the Biden administration is ignoring every bit of it. Don't believe what you see. Don't believe the Border Patrol. Don't believe the people who are down there running videos. Oh, no. Everything is fine. Just listen to them.

But do you know who does not believe this? Our law enforcement officers. They don't believe what this administration is saying because they see something different. Every town is a border town, every State is a border State because of that open southern border.

Our law enforcement officers can't ignore this. They can't ignore the ripple effects because they live it every single day. They put on the belt, the badge. They go out, and they do their job. They see how the Democrats' desire to ignore lawless behavior when it benefits their narrative has created a perfect storm of violence, of fear, and has empowered criminals—not quite the message you want to send if you believe in the rule of law.

Just yesterday, I had to send a letter to Health and Human Services demanding to know why taxpayer dollars are funding fresh crack pipes for drug addicts. That is right. A HHS spokesman has confirmed that the Agency is pushing a grant program that would fund so-called smoking kits with pipes for users to smoke crystal meth, crack cocaine, and ''any illicit substances''—government-funded drug paraphernalia.

Every once in a while, you think you have heard it all. Meanwhile, the border sits wide open, crime is on the rise, and we are asking police departments to do more with less.

A recent survey showed that between April 2020 and April 2021, police force retirements were up 45 percent, and resignations were up 18 percent compared to the previous year. There is no coincidence there.

It is time for the administration to decide whose side they are on. Are they on the side of the American people? Are they on the side of law enforcement? Are they on the side of criminals and monsters who really are responsible for this terrible crime spike?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, when the Biden administration ordered the evacuation of families of U.S. diplomats from Ukraine last month due to the increased threats of Russian military action and crime, a Ukrainian official clapped back: ''Quite frankly these Americans are safer in Kyiv than they are in [Los Angeles] . . . or any other crime-ridden city in the U.S.''

Yes, that is what a Ukrainian official said. The comment really struck a nerve because it may not be so far from the truth. In fact, an L.A. Police Department detective says the out-of-control crime in the city is ''so violent, we're telling people 'don't visit,' because we don't think we can keep you safe right now.'' The city was surrendered to criminals by the L.A. district attorney on his first day on the job in 2020 when he banned bail and prohibited prosecuting even the most serious crimes, like murder and rape, to the fullest extent of the law.

The consequences of giving ''get out of jail free'' cards to criminals shouldn't surprise anyone. Flash mobs of thieves breaking into local businesses are giving new meaning to ''door busters'' as they ransack city stores like bargain shoppers on Black Friday.

Looters are robbing trains like it is the Wild West, making off with millions of dollars' worth of merchandise, including pistols and shotguns. A Union Pacific Railroad official says that even when apprehended, criminals boast that they will face no serious charges, and within hours, they are let back out on the streets.

But most troubling, over the past 2 years, Los Angeles has experienced a shocking 94-percent increase in homicides. The L.A. sheriff says it is probably one of the biggest jumps ever, and he lays the blame on the woke policies of both the district attorney and the county board.

These senseless acts of violence aren't confined to liberal Los Angeles, and neither is the revolving-prison-door approach that is allowing career criminals to roam our streets. The U.S. murder rate hit its highest point in a quarter of a century last year. More and more felons are being released across the country as a result of permissive policies being pushed by progressive politicians and lenient district attorneys who view punishment as the real crime.

Democrats in New York, for example, recently pushed through a State law requiring the release of suspects arrested for stalking, arson, robbery, and other misdemeanors without bail. They require the release without bail. And despite the dramatic increases in crime in New York City, a Democrat district attorney released a list of crimes—I am serious about this, folks—released a list of crimes on his first day in office that would no longer be prosecuted, including resisting arrest. The DA claims longer sentences don't deter crime or result in greater community safety.

But a former New York City police commissioner points out the obvious—that when you say you are not going to prosecute certain crimes, you are sending a strong message to criminals. And it is the wrong message to criminals. He notes that since the penalty was taken away, stealing a car has become a game. As a result, vehicle theft is driving up the city's crime rate, and the New York Post reported just last week that the Big Apple is becoming a live action version of the game Grand Theft Auto.

But the wave of crime that has been unleashed is far more deadly than just stolen property. New York City's murder rate spiked an astounding 47 percent last year, and the killing spree is continuing into 2022. The latest victims include a teenager who was working at Burger King and two young police officers.

Refusing to keep dangerous, repeat criminals with a history of violence behind bars allows anyone, at any time, to become the victim of an entirely preventable crime.

For example, the low bail set by a Wisconsin District Attorney's Office last November resulted in the release of a violent criminal with a very long list of charges going back 15 years, including running over a woman with a Ford Escape. Within days of being released, he drove that same SUV into a crowded Christmas parade, injuring more than 60 people and killing 6, including a 5-year-old child and several members of the Dancing Grannies, who were entertaining the crowds at that Christmas parade. In a split second, the joy of the season was turned into a gruesome crime scene because a violent, repeat offender was set free. The Democrat district attorney has since admitted the release was ''a mistake.''

Folks, we cannot afford any more of these mistakes by public officials who are putting their personal political agenda ahead of protecting our public.

If letting criminals out of jail without bail isn't bad enough, progressive politicians are even—get this—providing perks for perpetrators. The Biden administration, for instance, is allowing illegal immigrants to use arrest warrants as alternate forms of ID at airports to clear security checkpoints and board airplanes—arrest warrants. Seriously, folks.

Some liberal cities, like New York and San Francisco, have cash for criminals, programs that actually pay prior offenders in the hopes that they won't shoot anyone. Great plan. That is right—the same gang calling to defund the police wants to fund felons.

A California cash for criminals program may have allowed some individuals to get away with murder. As long as the participants pledge to improve, they are still paid. Even when caught with a gun or, worse, suspected of murder, they get paid.

Folks, it is one thing to give first-time, nonviolent offenders a second chance, but rewarding career criminals by letting them loose and paying them an allowance is itself criminal.

Democrats' approach to criminal justice can be summed up as ''take no prisoners'' literally.

Instead of admitting their approach has backfired, liberals keep looking for excuses, and they play the blame game. To address the rise in carjackings in Chicago, for example, progressive politicians proposed banning the video game Grand Theft Auto. Perhaps the real problem is making crime all fun and games, with no real-world penalties and only rewards, just like the video game.

A retired police officer who was carjacked in his own driveway south of the city says the carjackers know that even if they are caught, ''they are going to get right back out.'' That is because the area's State attorney promised to reduce the prison population, and by golly, she is keeping that promise by dismissing tens of thousands of criminal cases. As a result, about 100 people charged with murder in Cook County have been let out on the city streets.

The Chicago police superintendent is even warning that the Cook County court is ''making us all less safe by releasing violent offenders.'' The horrifying numbers speak for themselves.

Chicago had more murders last year than any other city in the United States with nearly 800 homicides. That is more people than in the small community I grew up near—800 homicides.

Shootings in the city are up a shocking 63 percent since 2019. One of the fatal victims was a 7-year-old girl who was gunned down at a McDonald's by a gang member who was allowed out of prison despite being charged with other crimes. The suspects in another recent shootout, which left one dead and two others wounded, were released without charges.

Public officials charged with enforcing the law who signal that it is OK to commit crime by reducing or eliminating penalties are engaging in criminal negligence. It is time to put an end to prosecutors being partners in crime.

I took the first step towards making our streets safer by introducing legislation to increase the penalties for some

violent offenders and child predators, including life imprisonment for repeat offenders.

Folks, progressive prosecutors need to stop playing politics and start doing their job, which is enforcing the law. Criminal penalties are not just suggestions; they are put in place to protect the public. Parents shouldn't have to worry about the safety of their children, and no one should feel unsafe, especially in their own neighborhood.

Let's get serious about crime so that the only people in America who are afraid to walk the streets are the criminals.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I have two words for you today: ''crack pipes''—crack pipes, not crackpots.

Many of us went to bed last night, others waking up this morning, and heads are exploding across this Nation as we learn that this administration is giving crack pipes to crackheads. I think when the history books are written about this President and 2020 through 2024, that will be the picture right next to the President's name—a picture of crack pipes being given out by this administration.

I want to come back to that in a second, though.

I have a picture of my dad today and our dog Rennie. My dad and our family—my mom, an older brother, younger sister—moved off the family farm when I was 5. My dad was a proud, proud police officer. I remember the day in kindergarten when my dad and our family dog Rennie came to visit and what a proud moment it was for me. In 3 years, my dad was head of the fire department, and 2 years after that, he became the chief of police. My dad was the chief of police in El Dorado, KS, for some 25 years.

My dad represented law in the community. He represented right from wrong, and he applied that law equally. There was never a gray area for my dad. I remember having dinner at my grandma's house one Sunday evening and the phone ringing. We didn't have pagers. We didn't have cell phones.

All I remember, my dad was saying: Stand down.

My grandma looked at us and said: You guys better hug your dad goodbye.

I said: Grandma, what do you mean?

She said: He may not come back.

It was a familiar story of a domestic violence, of a drunk husband with his wife on the front porch. There was always a 12-gauge shotgun. It was never a 16-gauge or a 20; it was always a 12-gauge shotgun. My dad was the person who would go and disarm that person. It happened way too often.

But I just tell that story as we reminisce because we know how important law enforcement officers are to all of us.

I remember, you know, you sit around and you listen while you are making homemade ice cream, and people asked my dad questions about crime. I think of those crack pipes and my dad always saying that drugs and crime go hand in hand like peanut butter and jelly—the more drug abuse there is, the more crimes there were in the community.

I remember somebody asking him why would the police officers be so strict about petty crimes. Maybe it was a little vandalism. Maybe it was a broken window. Maybe it was graffiti. I remember my dad talking about, you have to set an example, that if you allow people to vandalize, if you allow people to do graffiti, if you allow people to break windows, it is just a cascade of bigger crimes.

I finished up some townhalls this past weekend—15 townhalls in the past 2 weeks—and what Americans are concerned about are inflation and crime. This is what Americans—Kansans—are telling me that they are seeing every night on their television sets. They are seeing 2 million people—maybe 6 million people—cross our border illegally, and they see this administration reward them with an all-expenses-paid vacation trip to any city in America.

America has seen riots and vandalism on television, and this administration and this party applaud them. Every night, we see looting and shoplifting, but this administration says: Don't prosecute.

Last year, America saw 5 tons of fentanyl cross the border illegally, cross our southern border—five tons. Think of five big semitrucks loaded with a ton—that is 2,000 pounds—of fentanyl. I remind everybody that 1 teaspoon of fentanyl can kill 2,000 to 3,000 Americans.

We are seeing our law enforcement officers being told to turn their backs on violent crimes, to not chase the bad guys. America sees this White House and their party turn their backs on law enforcement officers.

Again, I go back to my dad. I remember it was probably around 2014, and my dad and I were fishing, as we often do together, probably crappie fishing on a farm pond in the Flint Hills of Kansas, my favorite place to be. My dad said to me: You know, Son, I don't think this President has the back of our law enforcement officers any more.

As I visit with those law enforcement officers every time I am back—and I appreciate them coming to my townhalls and having my back—I can tell you, the law enforcement officers across this country do not feel like they are being supported by this White House.

As I think about an America of today versus growing up, I do think there has been a decay in our culture, and this ''defund the police'' movement from the radical left made that culture even weaker. We have members of this squad wanting to close Federal prisons. They encourage open borders. They want illegals to use arrest warrants to get through the TSA. Of course, they want criminals to get off the hook. There is this culture of lawlessness.

Again, I go back to my generation of ''If it feels good, do it.'' I remember that saying for the first time from some song, I believe, from the early 1970s, ''If it feels good, do it,'' and that is the way this country is acting right now. What is the result? We see crowds chanting ''Pigs in a blanket, fry 'em [up] like bacon.''

''Pigs in a blanket, fry 'em [up] like bacon.''

The next time one of those houses is burning down that one of those people lives in, I wonder who they are going to call. If they are stranded in a motor vehicle accident, who is going to be the first one on the scene? Again, I go back to thinking about my dad and him carrying out one of my classmates in second grade from a fire. Unfortunately, my classmate didn't make it.

Three hundred forty-six law enforcement officers were shot in 2021. Seventy-three were intentional. Twenty-four were shot last month—a 40-percent increase. Ambush-style attacks increased 115 percent. We have never seen a crimewave like this across our Nation—not since the early 1990s, anyway. The United States recently saw the fastest increase in murder rates ever recorded. Violent crimes spiked. Fourteen major, Democratic-run cities are setting alltime highs for homicide records. The numbers continue to go up.

As I think about advice for this administration, I know if they had the will, they could fix this problem. I know exactly what my dad would tell them. He would say: Treat criminals like criminals. Treat police officers, law enforcement officers, like heroes. Tell them thanks. Reward them. Respect them.

It is time to re-fund the police, folks. It is time to secure the border. Let's hold criminals accountable.

It was a rare day, but I do remember my dad talking at the supper table about someone they worked so hard to convict, and a judge or DA let them off easy. We need to prosecute the smallest of crimes.

We need an Attorney General. Where is our Attorney General? Where is he? In the middle of this crime spree, where is our Attorney General? He needs to be tough on crime instead of labeling parents as ''domestic terrorists.''

Simply, America, it is time to get back to our values—the same values my dad raised us on. It is time to, like my dad did, apply the law equally.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, last week, a member of the Biden administration was confused—very confused—why FOX News is talking all the time about crime. That person is the Press Secretary to President Biden, Ms. Psaki. She said Americans care more about what is happening in their daily lives than what the news says about crime.

How much more out of touch could the Biden administration be? Crime is happening in Americans' daily lives all across America. Thousands more people a year are being murdered.

Violent crime has increased for 2 years, and there is no sign of it slowing down.

The administration's plan to fix the violent crime spike is merely another partisan gun control plan. That is what they think about, doing something about crime: control the guns of people who abide by the law.

They won't seriously reduce violent crime. If you do that, it focuses on issues that make up a tiny fraction of violent crimes or maybe it doesn't contribute to the problem at all.

For example, the administration wants to crack down on ghost guns, but ghost guns are involved in only a fraction of 1 percent of the crimes—particularly of the murders.

The Biden administration also wants to focus on the so-called ''Iron Pipeline,'' and that is blaming red States for guns in crime-ridden blue States. But on that issue, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, their data shows that guns used in blue-city crimes usually come from that very same blue State.

Finally, the Biden administration wants to focus on lawful gun sellers, but we have a Department of Justice study finding most crimes are committed with stolen guns from the black market.

So I worry about the Department of Justice could use efforts to reduce violent crime as a pretext to harass lawful gun dealers and owners. Gun sales have increased nationwide because Americans don't feel safe anymore. They feel the police are not proactively policing, so they get a gun to protect themselves.

Honest people who don't break the law want to feel safe, and that makes them feel safe. I don't blame them for taking protection of their life and property into their hands.

I related recently about the increases in crime that have nothing to do with guns, and yet all we hear from this administration is about controlling guns. But what does that have to do—gun control is not going to stop criminals from pushing people in front of subway trains. Gun control won't stop flash mobs from stealing goods from stores. It isn't going to stop the thieves from looting train yards, and you see evidence of this all the time on television—almost daily—people going into stores with bags, filling it up, and just think in San Francisco some prosecutor said if you steal less than $950, you won't be prosecuted.

So you wonder why people commit crime. If you aren't going to pay a penalty for it, why not do it? So the Biden administration is wasting precious resources and taxpayer dollars on partisan pet projects of gun control.

The Biden administration has ordered the Department of Justice to look like it is doing something without really doing anything at all.

You know what Americans actually need to reduce violent crime? They need police forces empowered to do their jobs with the right resources and protections.

Now, we hear the Biden administration just last week in New York saying it supports police. The President himself was up there. But a leaked Executive order shows it wants to take away their nonlethal, lifesaving tools, and make it more difficult for police to get grants for funding.

Americans also need responsible bail policies—these policies that, if they were responsible, wouldn't let dangerous criminals back out onto the streets to kill people.

They need prosecutors who will actually do their job to keep violent criminals away from the vulnerable. The Biden administration has a chance to make a real difference in reducing violent crime. It is a shame that they are wasting their time and resources on a misleading message.

When you see the prosecutors in Los Angeles and San Francisco listing a whole bunch of crimes that they are not going to prosecute, it just invites lawbreaking. We need to stop this ''defund the police'' crusade. We need to step up prosecution. We need to eliminate progressive prosecutors. We need to make sure that people don't get bail if they are repeat criminals or a threat to society.

In the final analysis, taxpayers are paying for public safety, but in some places in the United States, they aren't getting their money's worth for public safety they pay for. Government is set up to maintain public safety, and that is what we are all about with this War on Crime, protecting the taxpayers, protecting every citizen taxpayer or not.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, oftentimes when we talk rising crime, we talk about statistics. For example, last year in Milwaukee, there were 194 murders.

As I prepared to give remarks yesterday, I got the stat that there were 26 murders already this year. That is an 86-percent increase. Unfortunately, last night there were two more murders, and now it is up to 28.

Seventy-three law enforcement officers were intentionally killed in the line of duty last year. That is the highest it has been since 1995.

We had three police officers shot in a 2-week period at the end of January. Those are just some of the statistics, and I am sure you have heard a lot more on the floor here today. But one thing I don't think we talk about enough are the victims.

I heard President Biden's Press Secretary, Jen Psaki, last week. I guess she was monitoring different TV stations, and she remarked that one commentator was talking about soft-on-crime consequences, and she giggled and said what does that even mean?

Well, I will talk about what it means. An excellent article in the Just the News a couple days ago had some heartbreaking examples of those consequences.

Last week, we held an event about the open border, about the catch-and-release policies of this administration, record levels of people coming into this country illegally and what that represents from a standpoint of national security and homeland security and crime.

In Alabama's Chilton County, two illegal immigrants, ages 27 and 28, have been charged in the murders of three adults found shot and burned in an SUV.

In another recent case, a Florida father who believed he was taking in a 16-year-old migrant minor from Honduras, a Good Samaritan, was killed by that migrant who turned out to be much older and involved in crime.

In Florida, a 5-year-old girl riding in her mother's car was crushed to death when an illegal immigrant from Honduras crashed into the car. The driver admitted he got into the car after drinking six cans of 32-ounce beers.

In Harris County, TX, an illegal immigrant from El Salvador is charged with exiting his vehicle during a routine traffic stop and fatally shooting the sheriff's deputy in the face.

Those are just a few examples of the consequences of soft-on-crime policies. Those are crimes that were committed by illegal immigrants that take advantage of the catch-and-release policies on the border.

But we are not only just experiencing catch-and-release on the southern border, we also have catch-and-release in our criminal justice system—these no-bail, low-bail policies promoted by generally Democrat district attorneys in cities governed for decades by Democrats.

We had a tragedy in Waukesha, WI. It never should have happened. This was during the Waukesha Christmas parade, when children lined up on the street, on the curb, waiting to see Santa Claus—instead they saw a slaughter. Six innocent people lost their lives. Sixty-two people were injured—their lives forever altered.

And it didn't have to happen because the murderer had been let out on a thousand-dollar bail after having run over the mother of his child with that same SUV. That is the result—that crime, those 6 innocent victims, those 62 innocent victims who were injured, their family members, their loved ones are the consequences of soft-on-crime policies of Democratic governance.

So as horrific as those 6 murders were, as horrific as the 62 injuries were, what I can't get out of my mind are those little children sitting on the curb waiting to see Santa and instead witnessing the slaughter. How do they ever recover from that? Is that something that Jen Psaki ever thinks

about? Is that something that President Biden ever thinks about?

As Jen giggles about the consequences, these are serious consequences. We need to get tough on crime. We need to put violent criminals in jail and leave them in jail so they don't create more victims.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I think Senator BLUNT from Missouri is going to ask for recognition, and I do not object to that. But I was scheduled for earlier, and I would like to ask unanimous consent that when the upcoming rollcall is completed, I be the first Senator recognized.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Sorry, after the second rollcall, that I be the first Senator.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes before the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, there are really few jobs in the country as difficult, as dangerous, and as demanding as the sacrifice of being a law enforcement officer. I would suggest the one job that may possibly be harder—and certainly in my view is as hard—is to be the family member of a law enforcement officer, wondering all during that working shift what might be happening to the person you care so much about.

You know the challenges to these officers and their families—the challenges they face today are intensified as local departments struggle with the staffing shortages caused by record high departures and difficulty filling the open positions they have got.

The Eastern Missouri Police Academy had around half as many recruits join in 2021 as they had in 2020. In my hometown of Springfield, MO, they have 40 vacancies right now they are trying to fill in the department.

In January, the Columbia, MO, Police Department had around 20 vacancies in a force that its maximum size would be 187 or so people.

According to the St. Louis Post Dispatch in September, officer departures in St. Louis City and St. Louis County spiked in 2021 and were at a pace to be up to 60 percent higher in each of those departments than they had been in the average year.

In the police force here, I was with Chief Manger yesterday, and he pointed out that retirements and resignations were 50 percent higher than they have been in recent years in 2021.

The new chief of police at the St. Louis County Police Force said: My biggest priority is hiring and finding people who will do these jobs.

These staff shortages are unfortunate, but they are in so many ways predictable of a movement that villainized enforcement for, I think, political gain in many cases. Officers have been demoralized by the ''defund the police'' crusade. They have been discouraged by prosecutors who put dangerous criminals back on the street or even put out a list of crimes that people will not be prosecuted for.

That is well beyond the standard of belief that most people would have had, actually, until they heard it, my guess would be, that, no, these are crimes that we are just not going to prosecute people for.

Police saw themselves, in many cases, forced out of the force because of a vaccine mandate they didn't agree with, often going to smaller forces that had less than 100 people.

All this is happening, really, against a backdrop of a crime wave that is harming communities of all sizes all across the country.

When I talk to police chiefs, I hear concerns that a lot of good candidates are deciding maybe law enforcement won't be the career that they want to have. When I talk to the sworn officers that I see here every day and I see at home, I hear many of them feel they just simply have a job where they face danger but they don't get enough support that they need to do the job that they need to do.

Police work has always been dangerous. We have always lost officers. They have always been courageous in their willingness to stand up, but last year was the deadliest year ever for law enforcement officers. Four hundred fifty-eight officers died in the line of duty in 2021, 128 of them from gunshot wounds or fatalities from traffic.

You don't have to travel very far away from here, just down Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, to understand what it means to lose officers and what it means to lose them in protection of the country. The marble walls there bear the names of thousands of officers who have been killed in the line of duty. Each corner of that memorial shows a lion protecting its cubs.

We have always seen law enforcement as our protectors, not as those we should somehow fear. It eats away at our society to say that we appreciate law enforcement but we really don't want to do what is necessary to support law enforcement.

I think there is no data that says one or more tweets that say ''defund the police'' leads to two crimes or two muggings, but it simply makes common sense that when police departments are understaffed and undertrained, it increases the risk of violent crime on the officers themselves and the communities they serve.

As the cochair of the Senate Law Enforcement Caucus, one of my priorities has been to ensure that law enforcement officers have the support and resources they need to do the job they are asked to do and do it as safely and effectively as they possibly can.

We certainty all can and I think would agree—I certainly would—that there really should be zero tolerance for police misconduct. Taking the oath to support and defend and then somehow not conducting yourself in the right way, if you cross that line, you ought to be held accountable.

We need to view people on the line as people who are there to defend us, to serve us. We need to make this a profession that people want to be part of, and if they are willing to be part of it, we have provided them everything they need to be safely doing the hard work that they are asked to do.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON BUSH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

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

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 45 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Baldwin	Graham	Padilla
Bennet	Grassley	Paul
Blackburn	Hagerty	Peters
Blumenthal	Hassan	Portman
Blunt	Heinrich	Reed
Booker	Hickenlooper	Risch
Boozman	Hirono	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rosen
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Cantwell	Johnson	Schatz
Capito	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Carper	Kennedy	Shaheen
Casey	King	Shelby
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Sinema
Collins	Lankford	Smith
Coons	Leahy	Stabenow
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Lummis	Tester
Cotton	Manchin	Thune
Cramer	Markey	Toomey
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Van Hollen
Daines	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Moran	Warren
Ernst	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wicker
Fischer	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Young

NAYS—2

Hawley Scott (FL)

NOT VOTING—5

Barrasso Rounds Tillis
Luján Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Patrick Coffey, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.

VOTE ON COFFEY NOMINATION

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

Mr. REED. I ask for the yeas and nays, please.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

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

The result was announced—yeas 79, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 46 Ex.]

YEAS—79

Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Blunt
Booker
Brown
Burr
Cantwell
Capito
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Cassidy
Collins
Coons
Cornyn
Cortez Masto
Cramer
Crapo
Duckworth
Durbin
Ernst
Feinstein
Fischer
Gillibrand
Graham
Grassley
Hassan
Heinrich
Hickenlooper
Hirono
Hoeven
Inhofe
Kaine
Kelly
Kennedy
King
Klobuchar
Leahy
Lee
Manchin
Markey
McConnell
Menendez
Merkley
Murkowski
Murphy
Murray
Ossoff
Padilla
Paul
Peters
Portman
Reed
Risch
Romney
Rosen
Rubio
Sasse
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Shelby
Sinema
Smith
Stabenow
Sullivan
Tester
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock
Warren
Whitehouse
Wicker
Wyden
Young

NAYS—17

Blackburn
Boozman
Braun
Cotton
Cruz
Daines
Hagerty
Hawley
Hyde-Smith
Johnson
Lankford
Lummis
Marshall
Moran
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Tuberville

NOT VOTING—4

Barrasso Rounds
Luján Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The Senator from Texas.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, folks in Texas and across the country are looking to their elected officials for sound leadership. Family budgets are being clobbered by the worst inflation in 40 years. From gas stations to grocery stores and everywhere in between, people are spending significantly more money on their basic expenses. Inflation has outpaced wage growth, giving the average worker a pay cut. That is what inflation does. It erodes and undermines your standard of living by charging more for basic goods and services.

Families aren't just stressing about their finances; they are also worried about their safety. The shocking surge in violent crime that began in 2020 hasn't just continued. In many places, it has accelerated, and last year several major cities had their deadliest year on record.

With the safety and well-being of their families at the forefront, our constituents want to know what is being done to address these problems. They are pretty basic.

What types of solutions do their representatives have in the Senate and the House? What actions are the White House contemplating and how long will it be before they can experience some relief? Unfortunately, when the voters gave Democrats the leadership of the White House and both Houses of Congress, the responsibility has largely been up to them to provide that leadership when it comes to the agenda.

Unfortunately, the real problems that my constituents in Texas are experiencing, like inflation and crime, those were the last things for our leaders here in Washington to consider. Forget real problems and real families; Democrats' governing strategy was dictated by partisan ambitions.

Our colleagues tried to give the Internal Revenue Service the unprecedented authority and manpower to snoop on the finances of virtually every single American. Now, we are accustomed to the fact that the IRS knows how much you make; that is how you calculate your taxes. But our Democratic colleagues went so far as to inquire for every family: How much money do you spend and what do you spend it on? That sort of invasion of privacy is unprecedented.

Then our colleagues on the other side of the aisle tried to get involved in the childcare business and dictate what sort of childcare and where you would be able to get that childcare and how much it would cost. Basically, saying to those who are motivated to help support families when it comes to childcare, that if you are a faith-based organization, you are not going to qualify. And because of the huge influx of money that the Democrats were planning to put into childcare, excluding a huge segment of the childcare providers was going to result in scarce supply and run up the price, further exacerbating inflation.

Then we saw when it comes to the wealthy—our Democratic colleagues like to be the party of the average working person and complain about Big Business and millionaires and billionaires. But what do they do when it comes to tax proposals? They propose to give millionaires and billionaires a tax cut by eliminating the cap on deductibility of State and local taxes in high-tax jurisdictions like New York and California. Who would have to pick up the responsibility or deficit? Well, you guessed it; it would be the middle class.

Then we saw our colleagues on the left use the last year to attempt a Federal takeover of State-run elections. Some even proposed to blow up the rules of the Senate and eliminate the filibuster, the one thing that forces us to do what doesn't come naturally, which is to work together and build bipartisan consensus.

There were proposals from the majority leader himself and others saying we are going to blow up the Senate because we cannot get our way, and the main reason we can't get our way is because we are unwilling to work with the other side of the aisle. Thank goodness two of our colleagues, the Senator from West Virginia and the Senator from Arizona, tapped the brakes, and we have not yet found ourselves in that situation.

So every one of these examples I mentioned has been tried and failed in this last year. But there is, of course, what economists call opportunity costs. We can't take back the last year that we wasted on these partisan efforts. A lot of the damage has been done. Invaluable time has been wasted on partisan legislation that was sure to go nowhere, while the most basic responsibilities of governing had been tossed aside.

Last year, our Democratic colleagues nearly dropped a debt bomb on our economy. We had to spend a lot of money during the COVID pandemic. And during the last year of the Trump administration, we did that on a bipartisan basis. But even after the imminent need for that help was subsiding, our colleagues decided to spend another $2 trillion in the first months of the Biden administration. Only 10 percent of that was COVID–19 related and

less than 1 percent had to do with people getting access to therapeutics and vaccine.

Our colleagues allowed the National Defense Authorization Act to sit on the shelf, to linger on the calendar for months, leaving it until the very last minute. And then we find ourselves just 9 days away from a shutdown of the Federal Government. Our colleagues in the majority have yet to pass a single appropriations bill on a regular basis. And unless Congress takes action here in the next week and a half, the American people can add a government shutdown to the list of crises that we are facing.

Unfortunately, this is a familiar story. We found ourselves in this position on more than one occasion over the last several months. Congress's deadline to pass funding bills doesn't just pop up out of nowhere. It hits at the same time every year, September 30. Back in September, it was clear that a yearlong funding bill was nowhere in sight, and so our colleagues in the majority kicked the can down the road for 2 months. Rather than use that time to try to pass annual appropriations bills, they wasted week after week on unserious, partisan bills.

By the time the new deadline rolled around, nothing had changed, and so our colleagues had to punt again, setting up a new deadline of February 18. And based on the way things look right now, it doesn't appear that we are any closer to an annual funding agreement than we were last September or last December. There is some rumor of a top-line funding level agreement but no real progress on the underlying substance of these appropriations bills.

So you can't help but wonder, how has it taken so long to accomplish so little? Our colleagues are steering the ship of state, both Chambers of Congress, and the White House, and still we can't seem to come up with a way to do the basic function of governing, which is to fund the government. We managed to avoid government shutdowns, to be sure, but that is a pretty low bar to clear.

The Democratic majority has introduced yet another short-term funding bill that would carry us through March 11. I sincerely hope that progress can be made before then. I am just not sure how long the conversation should continue when we know what the job is that remains to be done and what the sticking points are.

But that is where we are. Our colleagues haven't just punted critical responsibilities. In some cases, they have ignored them completely.

In 2021, for the first time on record, there were more than 2 million people who attempted to enter the United States without a visa, a passport, or legal immigration papers—2 million people—and those are just the ones that the Border Patrol encountered. It doesn't count the so-called ''got-aways,'' which is what the Border Patrol calls the drug smugglers and other criminals who come across the border at the same time.

Two million people is larger than the population of a dozen individual States. That is how many new people have come into the United States during a pandemic, without being vaccinated, without proof of a negative COVID test, and at a time when people are concerned about their jobs.

The Biden administration has allowed this crisis to grow and grow and grow without any substantial action. As a matter of fact, the Secretary of Homeland Security and other members of the President's Cabinet have actually made it worse. Border Patrol will tell you there are two main things that they look for when it comes to illegal immigration. They look for the push factors, which are things like violence and poverty in some of the states and places people are coming from. We all get that. We understand those being the push factors, but they also talk about the pull factors, which puts a big sign out that you are free to come to the United States without any real consequence. You don't need to get in line. You don't need to comply with our immigration laws. You can just come as fast as you can get here.

One of the biggest pull factors is the misguided guidance from the Secretary of Homeland Security himself. I call it nonenforcement guidance. Basically, Secretary Mayorkas has said Border Patrol will not detain anyone whose only offense is entering the country illegally.

That sends a big welcome sign to anybody who wants to come to the United States without going through our legal immigration system. And the transnational criminal organizations that benefit from this financially make millions and millions—including billions—of dollars by smuggling people and drugs into the United States.

And while an open border's message may appeal to some elements on the left, it is creating serious burdens for law enforcement in border communities.

Over the last year, I have spent a lot of time listening to my constituents and the professionals in the Border Patrol about the many challenges that this crisis has created. Border Patrol agents are pulling double duty as childcare providers because our laws incentivize unaccompanied minors to come to the United States.

Now, nobody actually believes they get here on their own, but once they are here, under our current laws, they have to be placed with the State, with a sponsor, and told to show up for a hearing—for your asylum hearing—months, maybe years, in the future. And nobody is surprised when as many as half of those individuals don't show up for their asylum hearing—same thing for the adults in the family units.

But while you may think that this is primarily a problem for border States like Texas and Arizona, California and New Mexico, and others, it actually extends throughout the country. One of our colleagues from Montana tells me that his sheriff in one of his major cities said that one of the biggest problems they have is methamphetamine that is smuggled across the U.S.-Mexico border.

You can't get much farther north, and you can't get much farther away from the southwestern border than the State of Montana, but that is what the ripple effect of this uncontrolled illegal immigration, along with the drugs being smuggled across the border—those are the consequences of those failures by the administration.

Leaders in my State have constantly sought for the administration to take some action. This is a Federal responsibility, not a State responsibility. They have asked for more staff, better resources, and better policies to put an end to some of these pull factors.

But the Biden administration has done nothing to make it better. I would argue that they have actually made it worse with policies like the nonenforcement policy that Secretary Mayorkas issued months ago.

Senator SINEMA—a Senator from another border State and a Democrat—and I offered the Bipartisan Border Solutions Act, along with a Democrat and a Republican House Member, with the idea that if maybe we came up with a bipartisan, bicameral proposal, the Biden administration would say: Well, why don't we start there? Why don't we start the discussions there?

Well, the Biden administration refused to take any action, and the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee here in the Senate has refused to even hold a hearing on that bill.

Now, our Democratic colleagues may control all levers of government, but, for sure, that is a far cry from actually governing. Our colleagues can't seem to accomplish the bare minimum, let alone craft policies that address the needs of families.

Our colleagues seem to think that these partisan victories are the only way they can prove to voters that they know how to govern, but they got it backward, and they don't have much to show for it. The reality is, our colleagues' burning focus on partisan legislation has kept them from achieving much of anything at all.

Our colleagues have been so distracted by their own partisan ambitions that they have allowed the Senate to skate from crisis to crisis without meaningful action.

I can only hope that our colleagues will recognize that what they have been doing is not working and engage in some sort of midcourse correction in the coming months.

The truth is, our country deserves a government that works for the American people, not for just one political party or for any constituency within that political party, like the progressive left.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from New Hampshire.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I would ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration of the MacBride nomination until 6 p.m. and that at 6 p.m. the Senate vote on confirmation of the Baker and Lewis nominations.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Neil Harvey MacBride, of Virginia, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. For the information of the Senate, we expect to line up to three additional votes this evening. Therefore, Senators should expect a series of up to five rollcall votes beginning at 6 p.m. Senators are asked to vote from their desks after the first vote so we can move these along and not spend all night here.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I am actually on the floor to speak to a different issue, even though I think expediting votes is an important one, and I support that.

But I am really here to highlight the negative consequences for our country of continuing to fund our government through continuing resolutions.

One of the most basic constitutional duties of Congress is the appropriations process. The Nation relies on this body to provide Federal funds for programs that support national defense, small businesses, our border defenses, conservation of public lands, food assistance for low-income families, and so much, much more.

And as a long-serving Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am extremely disappointed that Congress is about to pass yet another CR that is going to take us to March 11, nearly 5 months past the start of the fiscal year.

Now, on a positive note, I understand that there is a tentative agreement on top-line funding, so that we should have budget numbers for an omnibus that would fund the remainder of the fiscal year. And that is good news. But the fundamental problem remains; long-term CRs create uncertainty and inefficiencies inside and outside of the Federal Government.

CRs prevent Agencies from issuing new grants or expanding programs. They curtail hiring and recruitment. And moreover, those who rely on government programs and Federal resources—and that could be either SNAP recipients or defense contractors, but everyone is forced into a budgetary limbo.

And simply put, when Congress refuses to act, people can't do their jobs, and this is especially true for our military men and women who are serving.

From Russia's efforts to undermine democracies in Europe to China's rapidly expanding sphere of influence, to the unpredictable threat of rogue actors like North Korea and Iran, the threats we face today are varied and numerous. And nothing hinders our national security more than funding our national priorities in piecemeal fashion.

Make no mistake, as we are engaged in this crisis right now in Europe, where Russia is on the borders of Ukraine, threatening to invade, we can bet that Vladimir Putin is watching our Congress to see if we can actually get an agreement to get a budget funded for the rest of this year.

Recently, several of my colleagues from the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense and the Armed Services Committee met with Marine Corps Commandant General Berger to discuss the challenges that are facing the Marines. The message from General Berger was clear: If we continue to fund our government through CRs, it will erode our military readiness, and it will cut training time and impede the maintenance processes we rely on to keep our soldiers safe.

The impact of continued CRs on our military would be wide-ranging, and the negative effects would continue to ripple for years. And we had this experience since I have been here. In 2012 and 2013, when we had the budget cliff, we saw what happened to our military. We saw readiness of our men and women in uniform erode.

Thousands of pilot flight hours would be lost. Critical exercises within our national allies would be canceled. Our overall global presence diminished at a time in which our adversaries are seeking to outcompete us in multiple theaters.

Aircraft like the brandnew KC–46 tankers that we are so proud to have stationed at Pease Air National Guard Base in New Hampshire, they are such a point of pride. They are an invaluable strategic national asset, but they would spend more time on the ground rather than flying the missions that they were designed for.

And submarines, the backbone of our nuclear deterrence and technological overmatch against our adversaries and, by the way, the ships that China is most concerned about, are an instantly recognizable symbol of American military might and the values of our country, they would be sidelined due to maintenance disruptions.

That would have significant impact not just for our readiness but also for places like the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, which has as its responsibility the maintenance and repair of our attack submarines.

So what kind of a signal does it send to adversaries like Russia, as they continue amassing troops on the Ukrainian border and threaten the stability of Europe, when we can't get a budget?

Long-term efforts to recruit and retain the best and brightest to serve in our military would be undone as bonus and incentive pays are cut and overall end-strength numbers decrease by thousands.

Military families would be forced to bear the burden of greater financial uncertainty on top of the many sacrifices that they already make for our country. We would be left with a smaller, less capable force that is demoralized from pay cuts and forced to shoulder greater risks for their safety.

Now, in addition to the harm to our servicemembers and military families, we would also be undermining the critical modernization efforts that we need to keep pace at a time when competitors like China are experiencing technological breakthroughs.

Just 8 months ago, I am sure we all remember that China tested an advanced hypersonic missile that was launched into space before reentering the atmosphere and nearly hitting its target.

This test should serve as a wake-up call about the urgent threat that China's military breakthroughs pose. And if the U.S. research and development efforts are slowed down due to the constraints of operating under a continuing resolution, we will not be able to drive the innovation needed to keep pace with China, let alone regain a convincing advantage.

And make no mistake, Putin isn't the only one watching to see if we can get a budget agreement in this Congress. Xi is also watching from China.

The development of our next-generation fighter to ensure we maintain air superiority in the air will be slowed.

Our efforts to defend against cyber attacks that could cripple critical infrastructure or expose national security secrets would be hamstrung.

Simply put, for all the might and selfless service of our service men and women, we would be asking them to defend us while tying their hands behind their backs simply because we in Congress can't find the courage of compromise.

I would say to my colleague Senator CORNYN from Texas, who talked about the narrow focus of Democrats—who are in the majority in this body right now, very slim majority—worrying only about our own parochial interests, that this is an opportunity for us to work together. Let's work across the aisle and see if we can't find some agreement on budget that will get this done not just for the remaining months of this fiscal year but next year and the next year and the next year.

China doesn't just compete with us on military technology; China and our other economic competitors are pouring resources into scientific and technological innovation. And if we want to sustain our global prosperity, global leadership, and national security, we cannot afford to be caught flatfooted.

That is why last week the House of Representatives passed the America

COMPETES Act, which is a companion to the Senate-passed U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, which passed the Senate months ago with a very strong bipartisan vote.

These bills will soon be in conference, and, if passed, they will bolster innovation and international trade, but the investments to meet the authorizations that are contained in these bills can't be made under a continuing resolution.

I chair the Commerce, Justice, and Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, the CJS Subcommittee. Our bipartisan CJS bill included a $1 billion increase for the National Science Foundation to keep pace with scientific discoveries that can power the economy in fields like artificial intelligence, quantum computing, microelectronics, and advanced communications.

Under a CR, we would forfeit the chance to fund 2,300 additional research and education grants that will support 27,500 more scientists, technicians, teachers, and students compared to fiscal year 2021.

That means a lot of innovative research projects, and therefore potentially new discoveries, technology, and industries would never get started. It also would diminish our ability to train the next generation of innovators.

It isn't just the National Science Foundation; under a CR, NASA wouldn't have the needed increases that will help us return humans to the Moon—the high ground that China is also eyeing. We will lose out on the opportunity to provide the Department of Commerce additional funding to build next-generation climate and weather satellites, help small- and medium-sized manufacturers, enforce export and trade laws, and invest in economic development.

Furthermore, a CR would delay implementation of the bipartisan infrastructure bill.

Last year, along with nine of our colleagues, we drafted the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which is bipartisan legislation to make historic investments in our Nation's infrastructure. The legislation provides $550 billion in new Federal investment to respond to the needs of the country, from rebuilding crumbling roads and bridges to providing clean drinking water and addressing harmful contaminants, to expanding broadband coverage to even the most rural parts of our country. The Senate passed that infrastructure bill by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 69 to 30.

When President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law, it became the single biggest infrastructure investment in U.S. history. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us to invest in this country. But if we continue with CRs, the implementation of this bipartisan infrastructure law could be delayed.

In addition, as a result of its flat obligation limitations, a CR would prevent State departments of transportation from accessing higher amounts of formula funding provided by the highway trust fund.

The CR would also prohibit new starts for new formula programs authorized by the bipartisan infrastructure law, including the fiscal year 2022 portion of the carbon reduction program that supports emission-reducing transportation projects and the PROTECT formula funding to States to support transportation infrastructure resiliency.

Now, in addition to slowing meaningful infrastructure investments, a CR also fails to address urgent needs in our communities.

Americans want to be safe from international threats to our national and economic security, but more important, they want to be safe in their communities. Yet, in 2020, murders rose by 30 percent.

The Senate Commerce-Justice-Science bill includes significant funding to help local police departments fight crime and put officers on the street. It also includes a new Community Violence Intervention Initiative to implement strategies to reduce homicides and gun violence. But with a CR, we wouldn't have funding for this promising strategy.

We would also lose the chance to provide historic levels of funding for the Office on Violence Against Women. Today, it is particularly important because a bipartisan group of Senators will introduce a reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. But without a CJS appropriations bill, we can't provide additional funding for the Sexual Assault Services Program, which is a formula grant released to States, Tribes, and other coalitions in order to provide support services like medical services, counseling, and crisis intervention for victims of sexual assault, and we cannot start new programs like Restorative Justice, a growing area in criminal justice to repair and address the harm experienced by victims.

Continuing to rely on last year's funding levels and last year's programs undermines our chances to improve our military readiness, to invest in our economy, and to address emerging challenges.

This week, instead of enacting funding bills for the fiscal year that began on October 1, 2021, Congress will instead extend the deadline again, passing another CR through March 11. Now, don't get me wrong, I am glad we are continuing to keep the government open, and I understand that Senate leadership—Chairman LEAHY and Vice Chairman SHELBY, along with their House counterparts—has reached a tentative agreement on total spending levels to allow us to use the next month to finish our work and enact a remaining year appropriations bill, but it is way past time to have made that happen. The American people deserve no less, and we need to do better next year.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Florida.

HONORING THE MEMORIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE SENSELESS ATTACK AT MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL ON FEBRUARY 14, 2018

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, it is hard to forget the 14th of February in the year 2018, when I was actually here in the U.S. Senate when news reports began to emerge that there had been a shooting at a school in South Florida, where I live.

I was at the time—or I am still now, but at the time, all four of my kids were in school in South Florida, and as a parent, the first thing that flashes in your mind is, Where? Which schools was it?

Fortunately, we were blessed by God's grace that it was not any of the schools that my children were in, but, sadly, there were other Floridians on that day who were impacted in ways that I think will clearly forever change their lives, but I think it has also impacted the Nation.

It is now well known what happened on that terrible day, a day of complete horror that shocked the Nation, and today, we stop and remember those who lost their lives on that day and those whose bravery saved lives on that day.

We have learned much since that day about the things that went wrong with law enforcement, with the FBI, with local authorities, and with the school district, and that work continues. The monster who committed this act is now facing the justice of the Florida court system and will soon be sentenced.

But I wanted to spend the brief time we have to talk about it here today focusing on what has happened since that day and, in particular, the extraordinary work of some of the parents of those children who lost their lives on that tragic day, because they have turned their pain into activism in ways that have had concrete and meaningful impact.

One in particular is Max Schachter and his family, who, as they dove into this, realized that there was no place where school districts could go and learn about the best practices for how to safeguard a school or any facility, for that matter. Everyone was off doing their own thing, being pitched contracts and ideas by different companies that said: We can add this, and we can give you that. But there didn't seem to be a single place where you could go and learn the best practices to ensure the safety of our students.

That began to change because of his work. He lost a son, Alex, on that day, but from that pain, he has become a national leader on the issue of a Federal clearinghouse, which now exists.

The previous administration, the Trump administration, took executive action on it. Today, there exists a

clearinghouse that I hope we can put into statute through the Luke and Alex School Safety Act to make it permanent. It has become a resource where schools across the country are now able to, on an ongoing, real-time basis, see whether what they have in place is the highest standard and the most effective. Every time there are improvements, it is updated. It has had a meaningful impact. There are schools across this country that had vulnerabilities they didn't recognize. Those vulnerabilities aren't just about physical hardening of buildings and so forth; it is about identifying and getting ahead of these problems.

Sadly, what we learned from many of these tragedies is that, well before that day, there are clear signs that something is about to happen.

I think one of the things that most struck me is that multiple families told me that as soon as the news came out that this had happened, everyone knew who it was. Without even having heard the name, everyone knew who did it because the signs had been there and they had been missed.

The ability of school districts to now recognize that and get ahead of it is just one of the many innovations that are now in place because of the work of Max and his family in honor of their son Alex and of all those who suffered greatly on that day.

So I think it is important not just to obviously remember the extraordinary pain and horrific events of that moment but also to remember how these brave American families have since that day taken their pain and turned it into action and that today, across this country, many of our schools are better positioned to prevent this from ever happening to anyone else because of what they have done with this tragedy.

I wanted to take this moment today to commemorate and recognize their hard work and the work they and other families are doing not simply to raise awareness but to spur real, concrete action that makes a meaningful difference.

I now want to turn it over to my colleague from Florida, who was Governor on that terrible day and dealt with this all firsthand.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. SHAHEEN). The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, almost 4 years ago, on February 14, 2018, the world witnessed a senseless attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL.

I am proud to join my colleague Senator RUBIO to introduce this resolution which honors the 17 victims of the tragic shooting: Alyssa Alhadeff, Scott Beigel, Martin Duque Anguiano, Nicholas Dworet, Aaron Feis, Jaime Guttenberg, Chris Hixon, Luke Hoyer, Cara Loughran, Gina Montalto, Joaquin Oliver, Alaina Petty, Meadow Pollack, Helena Ramsay, Alex Schachter, Carmen Schentrup, and Peter Wang.

I often think of these innocent lives who were lost way too early. They were sons, daughters, parents, and partners. Some were educators, athletes, musicians; many of them, just kids with a life full of promise ahead of them. My heart breaks knowing that they will never get to pursue their dreams and that their families will always have a piece of their heart missing.

Since that horrific day, I have worked closely with many of the victims' families to ensure no family has to experience that again.

While I was Governor, we passed the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act to make sure our State does everything possible to ensure this does not happen again.

Now as a U.S. Senator, I am fighting for improvements on the Federal level, including the Luke and Alex School Safety Act, named after Luke Hoyer and Alex Schachter, which builds on our work to keep schools safe.

I am also working with my colleagues to pass the bipartisan EAGLES Act, which improves school safety for our students and teachers and provides more resources to law enforcement to prevent future tragedies from happening.

While, unfortunately, we cannot bring back the lives lost on that tragic day nearly 4 years ago, I will always work to honor them and do everything in my power to protect our students and educators and ensure they have a safe environment to learn and succeed.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 508, which is at the desk.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 508) honoring the memories of the victims of the senseless attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14, 2018.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 508) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

FLOOR VOTES

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I want to start by thanking my friend from the great State of New Hampshire for signing on to a letter I just want to briefly describe and send the letter to the desk.

I send a letter to the desk which has been signed by seven Members of this body, and we expect several more to be added over the next day, if not this evening.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is pretty simple. I was thinking that my mom is one of the few people who probably watches C–SPAN a lot when her son is on the floor. We have so many instances where we have 90 or so Members standing on the floor, looking at a door to the left or the right or the rear, wondering where that last Senator is who is holding the vote open.

So, Mom, when I am on the floor and looking that way, it is because we have a Member who may be coming to vote or maybe not.

What we have here is a situation where any one Member is able to hold the vote open. Out of respect for that Member—technically, the vote could be called after the time is called, but it is not out of respect for our Members.

So what I have simply done is circulate with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and say: How about this as a proposition: If you are the last Member to vote and your vote will not change the outcome, then instruct the desk and the Presiding Officer to simply call the vote.

We had nearly 80 Members already agree that is a reasonable proposition, and every one of those Members has an opportunity on an exception basis to say: No, this vote is important to me; you have to hold it open.

They could be caught in traffic. They could be coming from the airport—any number of valid reasons.

There was a vote on this this afternoon, and the reason I missed that vote was I am a ranking member of a subcommittee, and the witnesses were just about to testify. I could have held the vote open or I could have been rude to the witnesses and left when they prepared the testimony. I felt like it was more important to hear their testimony. That vote, by the way, passed by a huge margin. That is an example where I am perfectly happy to show respect to my colleagues, not hold the vote open, and move on.

Tonight, we are going to have several votes stacked up, and invariably, we may have someone come in—I don't think it is malicious, but they are unintentionally holding up the proceedings of this body. I think if we simply have them, their scheduler, their chief of staff, or anyone in their office simply say ''The boss has to vote on this bill,'' then they could call the cloakroom, and the vote could be held open, which is a tradition here.

I want to thank Senator SHAHEEN, the Presiding Officer. I want to thank the 77 people who have signed on to this letter just to show that we want to do the work of the people, we want to do it in a timely manner, and we want

to show the utmost respect to the Members and to the staff who are also held up for sometimes no good reason.

So this is a good step forward. It is a baby step. It is not a sea change. But I think we can change the behavior of the Senate by being mindful of how our actions can affect the proceedings on the floor and every one of our calendars.

So, again, Madam President, I send that letter to the desk. I have shared a copy of the letter with both cloakrooms. I will be sending a letter to Senator SCHUMER, who I understand will gladly accept it.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have the letter printed in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, February 2, 2022.

Hon. CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER SCHUMER AND MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL: As you know, despite our collective efforts to encourage Members to vote on the Senate floor in a timely manner, votes are often left open well beyond the allotted time, frustrating a majority of Members from both sides of the aisle. Often, the outcome of the vote is not in doubt.

With this in mind and in order to expedite floor votes, we are instructing the Presiding Officer to close any vote in which: (a) one of the signatories below is the last remaining vote; and (b) the Member's vote would not change the outcome. However, on any particular vote, if a signatory requests that the vote be held open, they may do so by providing notice to their Cloakroom.

Sincerely,

Thom Tillis, Angus S. King, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, Roy Blunt, Shelley Moore Capito, Patrick J. Leahy, Kyrsten Sinema, Jon Tester, Ron Johnson, Amy Klobuchar, Jon Ossoff, John Barrasso, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Rick Scott.

Mark R. Warner, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Rob Portman, Mike Rounds, James Lankford, Joni Ernst, Cynthia M. Lummis, Mike Crapo, Bill Hagerty, Richard Burr, Dan Sullivan, Debbie Stabenow, Roger Marshall, Jerry Moran, James E. Risch.

Tommy Tuberville, Tim Kaine, Lisa Murkowski, John W. Hickenlooper, Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Ben Sasse, Benjamin Cardin, Tammy Duckworth, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Roger F. Wicker.

Todd Young, John Boozman, Chris Van Hollen, Michael F. Bennet, Martin Heinrich, Robert Menendez, Richard Blumenthal, Brian Schatz, Patrick J. Toomey, Lindsey Graham, Steve Daines, John Hoeven, Gary C. Peters, Jeff Merkley.

Rand Paul, Bernard Sanders, James M. Inhofe, Alex Padilla, Christopher Murphy, Tina Smith, Cynthia Hyde-Smith, Mike Braun, Jeanne Shaheen, Deb Fischer, John Kennedy, Marco Rubio.

Mitt Romney, Joe Manchin, III, Sherrod Brown, Bill Cassidy, John Cornyn, John Thune, Mark Kelly, Cory A. Booker, Kevin Cramer.

Mr. TILLIS. Thank you, Madam President. I look forward to seeing it work in action.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The Senator from Illinois.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY FAUCI

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, our history books are filled with the names of great men and women who devoted their lives to others. One who may not be as recognizable as others is Norman Borlaug. He was an American biologist. He successfully developed a strain of wheat that grew more quickly and was disease-resistant. His work to feed the hungry has been credited with saving a billion lives worldwide.

Madame Marie Curie was a Polish chemist who is remembered for her discovery of radium and polonium and her huge contribution toward finding a treatment for cancer.

Of course, there are all the scientists throughout history who developed lifesaving vaccines: Edward Jenner, smallpox vaccine; Louis Pasteur, rabies; Albert Calmette, TB; Leila Denmark, whooping cough; Jonas Salk, polio. I might add Albert Sabin, too, because I was a kid and remember he came up with the oral version, which meant we didn't have to get a shot. Kids remember that.

These men and women will be remembered for improving and saving lives with their breakthroughs in medicine, agriculture, and science.

I want to nominate another person to be remembered in that same light. His name is Anthony Fauci. Born in 1940, Tony Fauci, the grandson of Italian immigrants, grew up a Yankees fan in Brooklyn. He was the captain of his high school basketball team. He worked construction jobs over breaks in the summer from school.

He ultimately decided he wanted to pursue a career in medicine. Thank goodness he did. In 1972, Anthony Fauci accepted a senior researcher position at the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, and for the past 38 years, Dr. Fauci has been the leader of that Institute. He has advised seven Presidents of both political parties. He has guided our Nation and the world through countless public health crises—SARS, avian influenza, swine flu, Zika, Ebola.

Aside from his work against COVID–19, he is best known for his work on HIV/AIDS. Anthony Fauci's tireless efforts on HIV/AIDS, both domestically and worldwide, through the creation of PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, is the main reason why HIV/AIDS is no longer a death sentence.

Some of us can remember when HIV/AIDS was first discovered. I can recall coming to vote in the House and somebody stopping me on the sidewalk and saying: Did you hear Magic Johnson has AIDS? I can remember hearings in the House Budget Committee as a young Congressman when we thought it was a death sentence that we were all going to face eventually. There was ultimate panic in the air, but thank goodness there were talented people like Tony Fauci with the nerves of steel needed to confront that.

Harold Varmus, a former NIH Director, once said:

> PEPFAR has turned around declining life expectancies in many countries and likely saved some countries—even an entire continent—from economic ruin.

Larry Kramer, a prominent and well-known AIDS activist who recently passed away, called Dr. Fauci ''the only true and great hero'' among government officials of the AIDS crisis.

For his work on HIV/AIDS, Dr. Fauci was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2008—our Nation's highest civilian honor—from then-President George W. Bush, who called Dr. Fauci ''my hero.''

Dr. Fauci has devoted his career and his life to improving public health. He has saved countless lives here and around the world. These days, he is working 18 hours a day, 7 days a week, shuttling from the NIH to the White House and back home.

He is a classic example of American excellence, a brilliant scientific mind. Yet, despite all this, despite all that I have told you about this man, some Members of today's Republican Party have chosen to make him a political target. They think attacking Dr. Fauci will cause us to forget the real history of COVID–19.

You see, the Republican Party has consistently failed the American people when it has come to COVID—from President Trump's refusing to take it seriously, to the discouragement of mask-wearing and vaccines, to promoting horse tranquilizers and bleach and bizarre theories as a cure. They have too little courage to face their communities and to do the hard work of governing during this public health crisis, so they have invented a political target, a convenient target, on which to focus their blame.

Instead of addressing this public health crisis head on, they are trying to deflect and distract from it in attacking Dr. Tony Fauci. They are, without evidence, suggesting the false narrative that Dr. Fauci secretly and purposely funded illicit research that caused this virus. They are even criticizing his government salary, for goodness' sakes.

He accrued that salary, I might remind them, over four decades of public service, as though he wouldn't make twice or three times that amount in the private sector today. They are questioning his financials and ties to the drug industry, even though he has made every requested document available, and no malfeasance or conflicts have been found.

So why do they do this? Why are they determined to run this man down? Why would they attack this public servant who is working around the clock to keep us safe?

It is because it is much easier to malign a person than it is to do the hard work of enacting policies to tackle this virus and keep America healthy. Their distractions have sunk so low that they are using these attacks to raise money for their political campaigns.

We have Republican candidates, from Ohio to Florida, who are running ads entitled, ''Fire Fauci,'' who are promising to subpoena him and reduce his salary to zero if it is within their power, who are selling ''Freedom over Fauci Flip-Flops,'' which comes from none other than the Governor of Florida. A few of my Senate Republican colleagues have loaded up their websites with anti-Fauci fervor, conveniently located next to a ''donate here'' option.

We have FOX News' anchors and podcast comedians giving air time to anti-vaxxers who are hoping to get their 15 minutes of fame by leveling baseless claims against Dr. Fauci, baseless claims that have resulted in death threats and harassment against Dr. Fauci, his wife, and his children.

Let me ask you this: What have Dr. Fauci's most vocal critics done to advance the cause of public health?

Nothing. They have done nothing. Worse than that, their lies about Dr. Fauci and about COVID are creating a toxic political environment that is literally killing people, as 900,000 Americans have now died from COVID. Some of these deaths could have been prevented with vaccinations.

Americans who are unvaccinated—listen to this; the Presiding Officer knows it—are 97 times more likely to die from COVID than their vaccinated and boosted counterparts—97 times more likely to die. Yet, instead of spending their time encouraging vaccinations and promoting other proven, legitimate public health measures that would end this pandemic, many in the Republican Party want to get their 5 or 10 minutes of Sun on FOX TV, and they spend their time attacking Dr. Fauci.

These attacks are a shameful fraud, and for what—to fundraise? to win another guest appearance on FOX?

Working in politics, you get used to a lot of things—grandstanding, demagoguery, hypocrisy—but what some of my Republican colleagues are doing to Dr. Fauci is the lowest form of political life. They are lying about someone who has devoted his life to saving people—saving AIDS patients, containing and eradicating Ebola, preventing the spread of Zika and the avian flu. He is someone who has worked harder than anyone to end this COVID pandemic.

David Relman, a microbiologist who has advised the U.S. Government for years on biological threats, said this of Dr. Fauci:

> Nobody is a more tireless champion of the truth and the facts . . . I am not entirely sure what we would do without him.

Dr. Fauci's name is—and deserves to be—listed alongside our world's greatest scientific minds. History will reserve another place for those who lied about him for their own gain—inciting hatred, prolonging this pandemic, and contributing to needless pain and suffering.

America is blessed to have the talent, dedication, and compassion of Anthony Fauci in the midst of this deadly pandemic.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article from The Washington Post, entitled, ''Anthony Fauci is up against more than a virus,'' after these remarks.

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

[Jan. 27, 2022]

ANTHONY FAUCI IS UP AGAINST MORE THAN A VIRUS

(By Dan Zak and Roxanne Roberts)

Two years into the pandemic, the threats and vitriol have not stopped. And the many Americans who still trust him are exhausted.

The doctor opens the front door. Never mind introductions. ''I know who you are. Do you think these guys would let you get this close to me, if we didn't know who you are?'' Across the street is a security agent in Nikes, a badge on his belt. He's not the only one watching.

''I mean, isn't it amazing?'' the doctor says. ''Here I am, with cameras around my house.''

The house is modest for Washington: stucco and brick, cozy and cramped. No obvious tokens of celebrity or esteem. Icicles on the dormant hot tub out back. Bottles of red wine and olive oil on the kitchen counter.

''It's messy because, as you know, in covid times, nobody comes over. So nobody cares.''

People are coming by outside, though. They are snapping photos. Two years into the pandemic Anthony Fauci remains the face of America's covid response, and on this cold Saturday in January thousands of marchers are descending on the capital to rally against vaccine mandates. Are some of them staking out his home?

The security agents ''usually leave at a certain time,'' the doctor says. ''But tonight they're going to sleep in our guest room.''

Year 3 of covid times. Nearly 900,000 Americans are dead. An average of 2,000 (mostly unvaccinated) Americans are dying every day now, even though there is a simple measure to limit such suffering—made possible in large part by the Vaccine Research Center founded under Fauci. And yet many Americans would rather take their chances with a virus than a vaccine, because there's more than just a virus going around. There's something else in the air. Symptoms include rage, delusion, opportunism and extreme behavior—like comparing Fauci to Nazi doctor Josef Mengele (as Lara Logan did on Fox News in November), or setting out for Washington with an AR–15 and a kill list of ''evil'' targets that included Fauci (as a California man did last month).

''Surrealistic,'' the doctor says.

He has not had a day off since the beginning. ''I would say I'm in a state of chronic exhaustion.'' He quickly adds: ''But it's not exhaustion that's interfering with my function.'' He is a precise man whose tour in the information war has made him extra-vigilant about his words. ''I can just see, you know, Laura Ingraham: 'He's exhausted! Get rid of him!' ''

Fauci has been a doctor and public servant for more than 50 years. He's been the country's top expert on infectious diseases under seven U.S. presidents. George H.W. Bush once called him his personal hero. Under George W. Bush, Fauci became an architect of an AIDS-relief program that has, according to the U.S. government, saved 21 million lives around the world.

He knows how a virus works. He knows how Washington works. He thought he knew how people worked, too—even ones who called him a murderer, as AIDS activists did decades ago because they felt left for dead by a neglectful government. Back then the angry people were motivated by truth and science. Fauci had something to learn from them, and they had something to learn from him. The shared mission was pursuing facts and saving lives. Fear and uncertainty could be eased by data and collaboration. Combatants, however scared or passionate, shared a reality.

Now?

''There is no truth,'' Fauci says, for effect. ''There is no fact.'' People believe hydroxychloroquine works because an Internet charlatan claims it does. People believe the 2020 election was stolen because a former president says so. People believe that Fauci killed millions of people for the good of his stock portfolio because it's implied by TV pundits, Internet trolls and even elected leaders. Fauci is unnerved by ''the almost incomprehensible culture of lies'' that has spread among the populace, infected major organs of the government, manifested as ghastly threats against him and his family. His office staff, normally focused on communicating science to the public, has been conscripted into skirmishes over conspiracy theories and misinformation.

''It is very, very upending to live through this,'' Fauci says, seated at his kitchen table in the midwinter light. He pauses. ''I'm trying to get the right word for it.'' He is examining himself now, at 81, in the shadow of the past two years. ''It has shaken me a bit.''

The way he can comprehend the situation is in the context of the Jan. 6, 2021, siege of the Capitol. There it was, on live TV, an experiment as clear as day: The abandonment of truth has seismic consequences.

Something has been replicating in the American mind. It is not microbial. It cannot be detected by nasal swab. To treat an affliction, you must first identify it. But you can't slide a whole country into an MRI machine.

''There's no diagnosis for this,'' Fauci says. ''I don't know what is going on.''

A virus is a terrifying force that hijacks civilization. A bureaucracy, intricate yet imperfect, is what we have to take back control. For better and worse, Fauci became the personification of both. He has been sainted and satanized over the past two years, since he first fact-checked President Donald Trump. His inbox is a cascade of hosannas and go-to-hells. His days often start at 5 a.m. His nights are fitful. What more could he have done today? What fresh horror awaits tomorrow? He is fighting for a best-case scenario, urging preparation for the worst, and fretting that nothing will ever be good enough.

''I do worry about him,'' says Francis Collins, until recently the director of the National Institutes of Health. ''He's incredibly frustrated'' by the attacks ''because it's a distraction. But there is no part of Tony Fauci that's ready to give up on a problem just because it's hard.''

''Being two years into this, and being at the tip of the spear—it takes a certain person to be able to persevere through that,'' says Michael T. Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota. ''It's almost like asking someone to run a marathon every day of their life.''

''He's always had complete bipartisan support, up until covid,'' says AIDS activist

Peter Staley, who once picketed NIH and is now a dear friend of Fauci's. ''It's flat-Earth time. Nothing makes sense. This is a guy who tries to let science dictate what he says and does. Now they're turning what is a pristine record into something evil. They lie, and repeat the lie 100 times until people think it's true.''

Staley calls Fauci multiple times a week to check in, ask him how he's doing, discuss the covid response and the resistance to it.

''What do I tell him?'' Staley says. ''What kind of advice do I give him to win that war? It's very frustrating. It's almost unwinnable.''

Look at Fauci's Jan. 11 appearance before the Senate Health Committee. Sen. Richard Burr (R–N.C.) chided Fauci and other officials for spreading ''skepticism and mass confusion'' with mixed messaging on covid guidelines. A harsh but fair criticism. Then two senators—who each happen to have medical degrees—got personal.

''You are the lead architect for the response from the government, and now 800,000 people have died,'' said Sen. Rand Paul (R–Ky.).

Fauci scolded Paul that such an ''irresponsible'' statement ''kindles the crazies.'' ''I have threats upon my life, harassments of my family,'' Fauci said, suggesting that the California man targeted him because he ''thinks that maybe I'm killing people.''

For years, Fauci had joked that his personal philosophy comes from ''The Godfather'': ''It's not personal; it's strictly business.'' The business is science. Science helped him cure vasculitis. Science helped him and others transform HIV from a death sentence to a condition managed by a pill.

What he was facing now felt like it had nothing to do with science.

Later in the hearing, Sen. Roger Marshall (R–Kan.) displayed a giant prop paycheck depicting Fauci's $400,000-plus salary. Marshall accused Fauci and ''Big Tech'' of hiding his financial investments, which created an ''appearance that maybe some shenanigans are going on.''

Fauci, bewildered and incensed, replied that his assets, which he had disclosed for decades, were available to the public. (While this statement was technically true, his disclosures were not just a Google search away; after the hearing, Marshall's office requested and received the documents from NIH, then declared that Fauci ''lied'' about the ease of their availability.)

When Marshall finished his questioning, Fauci let his frustration get the better of him. ''What a moron,'' he muttered to himself, not intending it for the microphone.

What was going on here? Senators were ''trying to troll Fauci, and they're trying to bring him down to their level,'' says Matthew Sheffield, a former conservative activist who now runs a political commentary website called Flux.community. ''They know if they can get him to call people a moron, or engage in pettiness the way that they engage in pettiness constantly—if he does it even once, then it's a victory for them.''

Paul disputes this characterization and claims that Fauci deserves ''some culpability'' for the pandemic because a grant from his agency funded research in a lab in Wuhan, the Chinese city where the novel coronavirus was first detected. (The exact origins of the virus remain unknown. Scientific consensus points to an animal-to-human transfer, but the debate is ongoing.)

Marshall's office did not have comment on Sheffield's theory. After the hearing, the senator's campaign website did start selling $29 T-shirts, featuring the doctor's likeness, to commemorate the moment: ''Send Fauci a message by getting your own 'MORON' t-shirt!''

The way in which the United States funds and manages science provides a solid foundation for skepticism and conspiracy, says University of Pennsylvania professor Kathleen Hall Jamieson, who studies science communication and misinformation.

Yes, scientific recommendations change based on available data, a truth that can be exploited to make responsible leaders appear inconsistent or incompetent.

Yes, Fauci has a high salary by government standards, has been in the same unelected position for 38 years and oversees a budget of $6 billion that flows into grants; those are truths on which a distrusting person could build a theory about corruption, unaccountable elites and a nefarious flow of money from this or that institution to this or that lab.

Yes, the virus seems unaccountable to our best efforts and fueled by our worst instincts. Yes, the ways it has ended and upended people's lives have been undeserved, tragic, crazy-making. These are scary truths that you can neutralize with a fantasy about how a single human villain is to blame.

The attacks and misinformation seem to be having an effect. Confidence in Fauci is softening, according to polling conducted since April by the Annenberg Public Policy Center. After holding steady last summer and autumn, the percentage of Americans who are confident that Fauci provides trustworthy information about COVID–19 is down six points since April, from 71 to 65 percent.

''For the first time in my lifetime—and I am an elderly woman—the voice that speaks on behalf of the best available knowledge in science has weathered sustained attack,'' says Jamieson, director of the policy center. ''Confidence [in Fauci] remains high despite that attack, but the erosion is worrisome.''

With Trump long gone from the White House and public exhaustion with precautions surging alongside the omicron variant, Fauci may now be more useful to the pundits who need a villain than those who need a hero. ''Fauci must go,'' the editors of the conservative National Review demanded this month. ''I'm over COVID,'' talk-show host Bill Maher told Deadline before his show last week. His guest, author Bari Weiss, echoed the frustration of millions: We were told ''you get the vaccine and you get back to normal. And we haven't gotten back to normal.''

''The stalwart Fauci was the wise Oracle of Delphi to then-President Donald Trump's babbling brook about household bleach as an injectable, anti-viral agent,'' Washington Post columnist Kathleen Parker wrote this week.

''Maybe it's my imagination,'' she continued, ''but Fauci appears less confident of late, perhaps weary of his own voice and exhausted by two years of on-camera appearances.''

Sen. Marshall exaggerated this erosion during the Jan. 11 hearing. ''You've lost your reputation,'' he told Fauci, adding: ''The American people don't trust the words coming out of your mouth.''

''That's a real distortion of the reality,'' Fauci answered.

Marshall replied with a truth from the world outside of medical science: ''Perception is reality.''

Fauci is not naive. He gets that a third of the country won't hear him. He still understands Washington enough to see how it is deteriorating in new and disturbing ways, as fringe thinking spreads to the central organs. As Peter Staley puts it: ''Because one party has turned so anti-science, Tony's power is no longer stable.''

Yet Fauci still thinks he is an effective messenger. And he still hasn't totally given up on the people who are making his life miserable. After the exchange with Marshall, and a news cycle dominated by ''moron'' instead of ''omicron,'' Fauci told his own incredulous staff: Maybe the senator has a point. Maybe my financial investments, though disclosed and available, should be much easier to see.

As for the citizens who wish him harm, he can't help but search for some signal, some symptom, that could help him understand.

''I'm always looking for the good in people, that kernel of something that's positive,'' Fauci says. ''And it's tough to imagine that that many people are bad people. And, I mean, it's just—has something been smoldering in their lives? Something that's sociologically evasive to me?''

He wonders: Does their resentment indicate an underlying issue that needs—for lack of a better term—healing?

''Maybe it's pain that they're feeling, that's driving it?'' he says, as if bedside with a patient. ''And we're focusing on the aberrancy of their actions, but we really are not fully appreciating that maybe they're suffering. And they're rebelling against a failing of society, maybe, to address some of their needs. Maybe we need, as a nation, to address the fundamental issues that are getting, you know, tens of millions of people to feel a certain way.''

On Sunday, in front of the Lincoln Memorial, thousands of people rallied against vaccine mandates. Fauci's name was scrawled on many signs. The rhetoric was familiar. ''Dr. Fauci is the new Jeff Mengele from World War II,'' said a Long Island construction worker named Gio Nicolson, who described Fauci as both ''puppet'' and ''dictator.'' A 57-year-old woman named Robin Field drove three hours from Yorktown, Va., to hold up a homemade sign that depicted Fauci's decapitated head in a noose, under the words ''HANG EM HIGH.''

Fauci is guilty of treason, according to Field. She's done her own research, she says, and it's clear that his recommendations have both ''killed people'' and made him money.

The violence of her sign, though—where is that coming from? At a primal level, it seems to convey pain or fear.

''Of co—'' Field starts, then stops. ''Well . . .''

How would she put it?

''I feel so bad that so many people have lost their lives. That hurts, because we all have loved ones that have touched our hearts and passed away.''

Almost no one alive has experienced this kind of sudden mass death, this level of widespread illness, this freezing and fracturing of all life. It hurts. For much of the 1980s, every single one of Fauci's AIDS patients died. Ugly deaths that he was powerless to prevent. He had to suppress the pain and bury the emotion to get through each day. When he recalls that era, his eyes water and his throat constricts. His self-diagnosis is a quick aside (''post-traumatic stress'') as he bridges the past and the present. In the middle of a cataclysm, it's hard to see the end. But it does end.

''As a society, when we get out of this, you know, we're going to look up and say, 'Oh, my goodness, what we've been through,'" he says. ''We've had an outbreak where we've lost close to 900,000 people in the last two years. That's going to have a long-lasting effect.''

In the early '70s, when he was chief resident in a Manhattan hospital, Fauci remembers glancing out over the East River in the middle of the night, ''Saying, you know, I'm tired, but I can't stop until at least this patient is stabilized.'' When he was the main attending physician at NIH during the AIDS crisis, he wouldn't leave the ward until he addressed every patient need. Now he views

the entire country as his patient—a patient afflicted by both a virus and an undiagnosed condition that hampers its ability to fight it.

He could spare himself further pain and exhaustion and allow America to see another doctor. He could tag out.

''That's not my character,'' he says. ''I don't do that.''

The patient, you see, is not stabilized yet.

Fauci stares out the kitchen window into his small backyard. Right now he sees a crossroads for America. The best-case scenario: increased vaccination, more immunity, antiviral drugs, a virus under control. If we work together. The worst: a new variant, as transmissible as omicron but more deadly, exacerbated by that comorbidity—the deterioration of our minds and politics.

''It's like it's 2 o'clock in the morning, and I'm looking out the window at the East River,'' Fauci says, ''and I got a patient who's bleeding, and another patient has a myocardial infarction, and another patient who has septicemia—''

The sense memory prompts a sort of pep talk for the present.

''There's no time to be exhausted, folks. You got a job to do.''

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TITLE IX

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, in my 40 years as a coach and mentor, I have witnessed the immeasurable value that sports plays in the lives of young adults.

The lessons learned on the field contribute to an athlete's success off the field. For example, there is the value of discipline and hard work, how to deal with success and failure, how to be a leader, and the importance of putting the interests of the team ahead of the individual's. But many of these lessons are only realized when there is a fair and level playing field, and that is why title IX protections have been so transformational for women's and girls' sports.

I began my career as a high school coach, coaching boys' basketball and football, as well as girls' basketball. This was just a few years after Congress expanded title IX, ushering in a new era of opportunities for women and girls in sports.

Title IX provided women and girls the long-denied platform that had always been afforded to men and boys. It ensured female athletes had the same access to funding, facilities, and athletic scholarships. Before title IX, female athletics received less than 2 percent of the college athletic budgets, and athletic scholarships for women were virtually nonexistent. Since it was enacted, I have witnessed firsthand how the expanded provisions in title IX have changed the game for female athletes at every level.

Today, 43 percent of high school girls participate in competitive sports. Since the 1970s, when I first started coaching, female participation at the college level has risen by more than 600 percent. Additionally, America's female athletes are routinely the best-performing on the world stage in both team and individual sports.

In the 2016 Olympics, we saw the largest number of U.S. female Olympians in history. It is clear we have made important strides. Yet, recently, the adoption of policies for transgender athletes has negatively impacted the rights, privacy, safety, and achievements of women and girls in sports. That is why we need to continue to fight to uphold and preserve title IX protections in women's and girls' sports.

This is a cause I have championed in my role on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. When then-nominee for Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, James Kvaal, testified before the committee, I pressed on the administration's commitment to upholding title IX and protecting the rights of women. As expected, he failed to articulate how title IX would be protected under the Biden administration.

In March of last year, when Senate Democrats were pushing through their so-called COVID relief package, I led the charge here on this floor to prohibit education institutions from receiving Federal stimulus money if they failed to uphold title IX. Not surprisingly, it was rejected.

But this is not just a debate we are having here in Congress; we are seeing it all across the country. To appease the demands of the left, sports organizations—from grade school to professional leagues—are focusing on the concept of being inclusive at the expense of being fair, but by including biological males in women's athletics, fairness is not possible. I can't believe we are even talking about this.

Just last week, I heard from female Olympic gold medalists who reiterated this, and study after study continues to confirm what we already know: Male and female bodies have inherent biological differences that no amount of testosterone suppression can level. Male bodies have larger hearts, bigger bone structure, leaner muscles, and expanded lung capacity.

One study concludes: ''On average, males have 40–50 percent greater upper limb strength, 20–40 percent greater lower limb strength, and an average of 12 pounds more skeletal muscle mass than age-matched females at any given body weight.''

The latest study published by clinical researchers in Europe finds that ''current evidence shows the biological advantage is only minimally reduced when testosterone is suppressed as per current sporting guidelines for transgender athletes.''

You can't make a level playing field. It is unquestionably the truth that biological males have a physiological advantage over females, and sports associations across the world are starting, finally, to pay attention.

In 2019, USA Powerlifting prohibited transgender women from competing in female powerlifting. In 2020, World Rugby became the first international sports governing body to ban transgender women in global competitions. Just last September, the UK Sports Councils—the national funding bodies for sports across the United Kingdom—issued a report concluding that allowing transgender athletes to compete in women's sports does not allow for a balanced and even playing field—forbidden. These organizations are doing the research and making recommendations in the best interests of their athletes while also maintaining fairness in sports.

But then there is the NCAA, better known as the National Collegiate Athletic Association. After a transgender collegiate swimmer began shattering—and I am talking about shattering—records in swimming just in the last few weeks, the public outcry was so loud that the NCAA said: Well, we will review this policy.

The NCAA met, and the board voted in support of a sport-by-sport policy that they say ''preserve opportunity for transgender student-athletes while balancing fairness, inclusion and safety for all who compete.''

In effect, this means they will defer the policy to individual national governing bodies and kick the can down the road. These governing bodies, in turn, generally adhere to the standards of the International Olympic Committee, which permits transgender athletes to compete in women's sports.

The Independent Women's Law Center and Independent Women's Forum both have condemned the NCAA for adopting this approach. The NCAA had the perfect opportunity to stand up for women and girls in sports, and they blew it.

The NCAA's lack of true action is disappointing and invites more questions than it provides answers. By punting the responsibility, the NCAA leaves the door open for continued erosion of title IX protections at the expense of women's athletics and continues to chip away at the great unifier that Americans know and love. We need to do better for women athletes all across this country.

So let me be clear. The question here is not should we be inclusive and supportive of all athletes; it is how. There is no pregame speech you can give a woman or a girl who feels like they aren't competing on a fair playing field. No pep talk can touch title IX's 37 words that changed everything for women's sports over 50 years ago. It rightfully afforded women and girls the same athletic opportunities that their male counterparts have always had, and we should continue to fight for all the young girls and the future of this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

SUPREME COURT NOMINATION

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution provides that the President ''shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint . . . judges of the Supreme Court.''

One of the most important constitutional responsibilities I have as a Senator is to provide advice and consent on a President's Supreme Court nominee. A new Justice is someone who could serve for a generation or more and have a profound impact on the lives of all Americans for decades to come.

Recently, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer announced that he would step down once the Senate confirms his successor. In his remarks, while reflecting on what he learned during his nearly three decades on the High Court, he said:

> This is a complicated country. There are more than 330 million people, and my mother used to say it's every race, it's every religion—and she would emphasize this—and it's every point of view possible.

Justice Breyer has built a reputation and cemented a legacy as a champion of civil rights and fought to protect American consumers and our very democratic system of government from the attempts to undermine our campaign finance system and weaken the sacred franchise of the right to vote. His thoughtful scholarship on the importance of safeguarding human rights and respecting international law will continue to influence democratic governments around the world for years to come.

When I think about a successor to Justice Breyer, I want to see someone who can serve as a strong and thoughtful presence on a Court that is tasked with some of the most complicated legal problems and questions in our Nation. Each new Justice is someone who could serve for a generation or more and have a profound impact on the lives of all Americans for decades to come.

The Supreme Court will make decisions on a broad range of issues, such as voting rights, healthcare, women's reproductive freedoms, equal rights for women, climate change policy, gun safety, campaign finance, civil rights issues, and so much more. A nominee should represent the values of our Constitution in such a way that allows us to expand, not restrict, the civil rights of all Americans and keep powerful special interests and corporations in check.

The U.S. Constitution is not a perfect document, but its authors designed a system of government around the rule of law and protection from abuses of power. Abuses could come from special interests or the government itself. Our Constitution created the Supreme Court of the United States as the protector of our constitutional rights.

A Justice should have a healthy respect for the separation of powers and checks and balances in our constitutional system. A nominee should strive to safeguard the independence of the judiciary and protect the prerogatives of each branch of government, including Congress and its duly-enacted laws. A strong nominee must be respectful of the diversity of the American experience and live up to his or her constitutional oath to uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States, as well as their judicial oath to ''administer justice without respect to persons, and do equal right to the poor and to the rich.''

Thus far, 115 Justices have served in our Nation's history, including Baltimore's own Thurgood Marshall, who was the first Black Supreme Court Justice. It is long past time to improve diversity on our Nation's Court, which promises ''equal justice under the law'' to all those who enter its hollowed chambers. The Supreme Court and its Justices should look more like the America it serves in both its demographic and professional diversity.

Madam President, I know you are aware that of the 115 Justices who have served throughout the history of the United States on the Supreme Court, 108 of those 115 are White males. We need greater diversity in our courts, and we need greater diversity on the Supreme Court of the United States.

In Maryland, for years, I have worked diligently when vacancies arise to recommend highly qualified lawyers to the President who will better diversify our Federal bench. Our Federal district court in Maryland consists of 10 active district court judges who sit in Baltimore and Greenbelt. I am proud that our court reflects the breadth and depth of the demographic and professional diversity in Maryland, including the first Black woman to serve as a Federal judge in Maryland and the first Asian-American Federal judge in Maryland.

Half of the active district judges in our State are now women. I chuckle when I recall the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's comment on how many women should be on the Supreme Court, as she was only the second female Justice in the Court's history. This is her quote:

> When I'm sometimes asked 'When will there be enough [women on the Supreme Court]?' and I say 'When there are nine,' people are shocked. But there'd been nine men, and nobody's [even] raised a question about that.

Our Federal judges in Maryland come from a wide variety of legal backgrounds, including having served as prosecutors, public defenders, private law firm attorneys, and judges in other courts. Maryland now has its first Black U.S. attorney in our State's history, whom I was pleased, along with Senator VAN HOLLEN, to recommend to President Biden and who was unanimously confirmed by the Senate.

I believe that a more diverse court and justice system inspires the confidence of Marylanders who seek their day in court and want to be treated fairly, with dignity and respect.

I am confident that the Senate, under the leadership of Majority Leader SCHUMER and Judiciary Chair DURBIN, will conduct a fair hearing, vetting, and confirmation process for President Biden's eventual pick to replace Justice Breyer.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate over the coming months to give full and fair consideration to President Biden's nominee to replace Justice Breyer in order to fill the upcoming vacancy on the Supreme Court. I am hopeful the American people will be proud of the process that unfolds in the Senate as they watch and learn more about the Constitution and the three branches of government that interact in this unique process to select the next Justice who will dispense justice on the highest Court in our land.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

HOUSING

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, before last year, the committee I chair and one of the committees on which the Presiding Officer sits—the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee—was far too much about Wall Street and far too little about issues that matter to people's lives.

We have changed that. Instead of always listening to the biggest banks and their corporate lobbyists, we listen to workers and we listen to their families from all kinds of communities all over the country.

Last year, we held the committee's first-ever worker listening session where, as hard as it was for all of us, no Senator asked questions. We just heard from witnesses. We heard from workers—about a half-dozen workers—who just told us their story.

We know that workers power our economy. We heard from workers from all kinds of backgrounds, working all kinds of jobs. Some worked for banks, others worked for large tech companies, and some for other corporations. They talked about wage theft. They talked about being laid off during a pandemic with no severance pay. They talked about the danger in their workplaces. They talked about how, in some cases, their companies busted their unions.

Their stories make it clear that the real harm the Wall Street business model does is to workers' lives.

Yesterday, we held our second listening session, this time with renters from around the country whose homes are owned by deep-pocketed investors like corporate landlords and private equity funds.

One of those renters—some lived in the Presiding Officer's home State, I believe in North Minneapolis—told her story. It is an increasing problem in every region, from big cities to rural towns. Deep-pocketed investors come into a community they have no connection to, and they buy up homes; they raise rents; they cut services; and they don't deliver on their promises to their tenants.

These out-of-town and sometimes out-of-country investors are raising rents often by as much as 50 percent, issuing eviction notices, and leaving toxic mold and pest infestations to grow worse, all to pad their bottom line.

We heard from renters in apartment buildings and single-family homes and manufactured housing. We heard from renters in Las Vegas, NV; Great Falls, MT; and Hyattsville, MD—all sharing those stories.

One renter was told, when she asked why her rent suddenly increased by hundreds of dollars a month, ''We have to please the investors.'' Think about that. ''We have to please the investors.''

Renters in Nevada, in Maryland, in Texas, and in California had their homes repeatedly flooded with wastewater, lived with rodent infestations, and went long periods without working showers or hot water.

Listen to Juan Cuellar from Maryland. He said:

> The ceiling in the hallways is falling in. The wood floor is buckling. We don't have heat. There are cockroaches and mice. The air conditioning units don't work. There is a lot of mold. The refrigerator doesn't work. They don't want to fix anything, including the stove and the refrigerator and the heater.

They don't even have heat. These investors claim they are just running a business. OK. The business is supposed to be providing a decent place to live—that is part of the deal—in exchange for collecting people's hard-earned money in rent each month. If your building is full of mold and mice and doesn't have working heat or doesn't have a working stove, you are not holding up your end of the deal. You are not running a real business; you are running a scam. Families pay a very high price for it.

Rachel Jones is a working mother in North Minneapolis. She said her persistent complaints about her home's leaking sewage and dangerous garage went unanswered. The city itself was forced to step in because of code violations. This single mother said the company that owns her home bought it as ''essentially a money-grabbing tool. That's all they are doing.''

Ms. Nguyen, who lives in Brooklyn, talked about the firm that bought her building, Greenbrook. She said:

> They and their business model do not care if I or my neighbors become homeless—in fact, their business model makes that possibility [much more] likely.

Cindy Newman, from Great Falls, MT, talked about her manufactured home community. She worked hard to buy her home, but she rents the land it sits on. That is how manufactured homes work, how mobile home parks work. She rents the land it sits on. She said they used to have ''a fair land owner who kept our community safe and affordable,'' until the private equity firm Havenpark Capital took over.

I would just add that Senator SANDERS just walked in, and Senator SANDERS and I have talked about when these private equity firms come in and buy mobile home parks and the damage that so often does.

She said her new owners in Montana have ''cut back on all amenities and strip value out of our communities. They are brutal, absentee landlords.'' Her line, her quote.

The group raised rents and added fees for water and sewer and trash removal. Ms. Newman said this company bought a number of these homes—Havenpark—all over Montana and Iowa and other places around the country.

She said it amounted to about an 86-percent increase—her words—for the dirt that her home sits on. But they just can't pick up and move. Moving her home to a different community would cost $10,000 or $20,000.

Just picture these mobile home parks. These mobile homes they buy—maybe $30-, $40-, $50,000 in some cases—they set them and then they build around them, and they aren't really mobile at that point. It costs, as this woman said, $10- to $20,000 to move them.

Most of her neighbors are seniors. They are on fixed incomes.

She continues:

> It's hard to believe we could lose our homes and our life savings to such uncaring, greedy people.

Remember, they moved into these places 5 years, 10 years, 20 years ago. A family owned it. The family rented the land out for $200 or $300 a month. Then a private equity firm came in and doubled their rent. I mean, think about what that does, just upending the lives of people who are not all that affluent. They are kind of living paycheck to paycheck or Social Security check to Social Security check anyway.

As apartments and houses and manufactured home communities that people can afford become harder and harder to find, families are left with an impossible choice: pay money they don't have for a home that may put their kids at risk or gamble and look for a new place to live with a fear they will end up with no place to sleep.

That is what these seven renters, who represent millions of renters across the country—that is what they told us yesterday. These renters and homeowners shared their stories. They have shone a light on this problem.

Tomorrow in our hearing—we will hold a hearing in our committee looking at how we ended up here, how this exploitive business model has exploded around the country. For Wall Street investors, rent increases are distilled down as returns to shareholders. Code violations and eviction violations are just the cost of doing business. But for Mr. Cuellar and Ms. Jones and Ms. Newman and millions of Americans, these are their homes. These are their neighborhoods. It is up to us to look out for them, not to look out for private equity firms' bottom lines.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3615

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, let us be as clear as we can be, and that is, there is significant discontent throughout our country today, from Vermont to California and in all 50 States. The American people are worried about COVID. We are all worried about COVID. We are all tired of COVID. But the American people are worried about much more. They are worried about inflation, the price of food and gas, and other products going up. They are worried about climate change and whether or not the planet they will be leaving to their kids and grandchildren will be healthy and habitable. They are worried about a middle class whose real, inflation-accounted-for wages have not risen in almost 50 years, have been stagnant, and the reality that today, half of our workforce is living paycheck to paycheck.

The American people are worried about the massive level of income and wealth inequality which we are experiencing in which, during this pandemic alone, just the last few years, the billionaire class saw an increase in their wealth by some $2 trillion while at the same time, thousands of workers died as they went to their jobs. They didn't have a choice about it; they went to work, and they died.

The American people are worried that their kids are not getting the quality childcare that they need or that the family can afford. They are worried about the outrageous levels of student debt that their kids acquired because they chose to get a higher education.

Above all else, the American people, in my view, are outraged that in the midst of all of these crises and more, their elected officials are simply not responding.

In my view, now is the time to tell the American people that we in Congress do understand their pain, that we do know what they are going through, and that we are prepared to stand up for the working families of this country and take on the greed of powerful special interests who wield so much influence over the economic and political life of our Nation.

Today, Senator KLOBUCHAR and I are going to focus on one—just one—of the many issues that this Congress must address. The American people want action, and that is what we have to give them. We have to respond to the crises.

Today, we are going to be talking about prescription drugs. For decades, literally decades—20, 30, 40 years—

Members of both political parties have come to the floor of the Senate, come to the floor of the House, and they have bemoaned the high cost of prescription drugs in this country. They promised the American people they would lower those outrageous prices. Republicans have come to the floor, Democrats have come to the floor, and speech after speech has been made. And not only speeches—Members of both political parties put 30-second ads on television when they ran for office: Hey, vote for me. I am going to lower the cost of prescription drugs.

For decades now, Members of Congress have been talking about lowering the cost of prescription drugs, and for decades, they have failed to deliver. Talk, talk, talk—nothing happens. The cost of prescription drugs goes up.

Congress has failed to deliver under Democratic leadership. It has failed to deliver under Republican leadership. It failed to deliver under Democratic Presidents and failed to deliver under Republican Presidents. We have failed to deliver because of the greed of the pharmaceutical industry, which today is likely the most powerful corporate interest in America and is certainly the dominant political force here in Washington, DC.

So I ask my fellow Americans today: Do you want to know why you are paying the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs? Simple question. Why is it that we are paying in some cases 10 times more for the same exact prescription drugs that are sold in Canada or in Europe?

Do you want to know why one out of four Americans—this is really quite crazy, that in the midst of a dysfunctional healthcare system, we have one out of four Americans who cannot afford to fill the prescriptions that their doctor writes. Think about that for one-half a second. People are sick. They go to the doctor. The doctor writes out a prescription. People can't afford to fill it. They end up in the emergency room. They end up in the hospital. They get sicker because they simply cannot afford the outrageous cost of medicine.

Do you know why millions of diabetic Americans actually ration their insulin? I have talked to diabetics and parents of diabetics. Their kids get sick because they cannot afford the cost of insulin. Obviously, diabetes today is a terrible, terrible illness impacting many millions of Americans.

Let me tell you why we pay the highest prices in the world, why people in America die because they can't afford prescription drugs. The answer has everything to do with the corrupt political system in which over the past 20 years the pharmaceutical industry has spent over $4.5 billion—not million; $4.5 billion—on lobbying and hundreds of millions of dollars on campaign contributions. Yes, you heard that correctly—$4.5 billion over 20 years on lobbying and God knows how many hundreds of millions of dollars on campaign contributions. These are campaign contributions that go to Republicans. These are campaign contributions that go to Democrats. And I am talking about many hundreds of Members of the House and Senate who receive funding from the pharmaceutical industry.

Further, the pharmaceutical industry has over the years mounted an unprecedented lobbying effort in Washington, here in the Nation's Capital, and in States all over the country. I hope everybody hears this because this is what power is about. This is why you pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs.

Last year alone, the pharmaceutical industry hired more than 1,700 well-paid lobbyists to come to Capitol Hill to protect their interests, including the former congressional leaders of both major political parties. Got that? Seventeen hundred well-paid lobbyists protecting the interests of the pharmaceutical industry—get out your calculator because what that amounts to is three pharmaceutical industry lobbyists for every Member of Congress. There are 435 Members in the House and 100 in the Senate and 1,700 well-paid lobbyists making sure that you pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs.

What is the result of all of that lobbying and all of those campaign contributions? Well, I think the American people know it every time they walk into a drugstore. The pharmaceutical industry, uniquely in the entire world, is able to raise their prices anytime they want, to any level they want.

How many people out there walked into a drugstore, refilled their prescription, and the pharmacist said: Well, I am sorry to tell you the cost of your medicine has gone up 20 percent.

Why? Because they can. They can do anything they want. If they want to double prices, triple prices, there is no law stopping them. That is what you get when you spend billions of dollars on lobbyists and campaign contributions. You get what you pay for, and they have gotten what they paid for.

Not only do we pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs, but the result of that is that the pharmaceutical industry, year after year, makes huge profits. Eight of the largest drug companies in America in 2020 made nearly $50 billion in profits, while the CEOs of those pharmaceutical companies took home over $350 million in total compensation. Eight companies; $350 million in compensation for the CEOs of those companies; $50 billion in profits in the last year we have information.

Let's be very clear. The overriding motivation of the pharmaceutical industry is greed. Their overriding goal is to make as much money as they can by squeezing as much as they can get from the sick, from the elderly, and from the desperate.

I could give you many, many examples of the outrageous greed of the pharmaceutical industry, and I am not even going to talk about the opiate crisis, which has killed hundreds of thousands of Americans. I am not even going to go there today.

Let me just mention, a couple of years ago, the former CEO of a drug company called Gilead became a billionaire by charging $1,000 for the hepatitis drug Sovaldi. He became a billionaire. Interestingly enough, that drug was developed by taxpayer dollars through the Veterans' Administration. While they charge $1,000 a treatment here in the United States, it turns out that it costs $1 to manufacture and can be purchased in India for all of $4—$1,000 here; $4 there.

In 2016, the chairman of Mylan received a $164 million compensation package after his company jacked up the price of EpiPen—you all remember EpiPen—by 550 percent over a 9-year period.

All over this country, the American people are asking a simple question: How many people in our country need to die? How many people need to get unnecessarily sicker before Congress is prepared to take on the greed and power of the pharmaceutical industry?

Enough is enough. A lifesaving prescription drug does not mean anything if you cannot afford that drug. We have great drugs out there. What does it mean if you can't afford that drug or if you are going to go bankrupt because you have to buy it for a family member?

We cannot allow the pharmaceutical industry to charge the American people, by far, the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs. And that is why I have introduced today, along with Senator KLOBUCHAR, legislation that would cut the cost of prescription drugs under Medicare in half—not by 10 percent, not 30 percent—cut the cost of prescription drugs under Medicare in half. It would do that by making sure that Medicare pays the same low prices for prescription drugs as the Veterans' Administration does.

Why is it that the VA pays so much less for prescription drugs than Medicare? The answer is pretty simple. While the VA has been able to negotiate with the pharmaceutical industry for the past 30 years, Congress banned Medicare by law from doing anything to lower prescription drug prices. And the result is that, according to the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office, Medicare pays twice as much for the exact same prescription drugs as the VA.

All right. You talk about dysfunctionality. You talk about crazy. You have two branches of government. VA pays X, Medicare pays 2X. How in God's name does that make sense to anybody other than the pharmaceutical industry? This is totally absurd. And if the VA can negotiate with the drug companies, so can Medicare.

By the way, for all of the great deficit hawks here staying up nights worrying about the deficit, let me tell you,

if we do that, we will save Medicare some $900 billion over the next decade. I would like to see where the deficit hawks are on this issue—$900 billion, 10 years. That is real money.

The VA, obviously, is not the only Agency that negotiates for lower drug prices. That is something that takes place in every other major country on Earth. There is no rational reason for the pharmaceutical industry to charge the American people $98.70 for a standard unit of insulin that can be purchased in the UK for just $7.52, and on and on it goes.

The American people are being played for suckers. They have bought the U.S. Congress, and it is time now for Congress to stand up to these people.

With that, I would mention that what we are talking about—what Senator KLOBUCHAR and I are talking about is not some radical far-left idea. I get that. I don't know if Senator KLOBUCHAR gets that, but it is not some radical, far-left idea; it is a fairly popular idea.

According to an October 2021 poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation, 83 percent of the American people want Medicare to negotiate with the pharmaceutical industry to lower the cost of prescription drugs, and poll after poll shows the same thing. Maybe, just maybe—ready for a radical idea, Madam President? Maybe, just maybe, instead of doing the work of the lobbyists and the pharmaceutical industry, we might just want to represent the American people.

I yield the floor.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I think you know Senator SANDERS and I debated a number of issues before, but from the beginning, we have been strongly united on one thing, and that is bringing down costs for the American people. And that is, as he just said, not one bit radical.

We have joined together to introduce the Cutting Medicare Prescription Drug Prices in Half Act because that is what we should be doing. America pays more. The people of this country pay more for their prescription drugs than any other country in the world. How can that be, as Senator SANDERS has noted, when it is our country, our taxpayers who are investing in all this research? How can we come up short when it comes to what our people are paying for drugs?

The examples: In the past 5 years, the cost of Lyrica—a drug that you see advertised on TV, millions of dollars in ads—a drug that treats nerve pain or Symbicort, an asthma medication, increased almost 50 percent. What is the result of these kinds of increases? Nearly 20 percent of older adults have reported not taking their medicines as prescribed because of the cost.

Last month alone, drug companies hiked the price of 742 drugs in America. What do we do? We sit. We sit; we talk about it; and we are not taking action.

That is why Senator SANDERS and I are putting our bill in today. We would love to spend the week debating it. We would like to move to this bill so we can get this done. We know that prescription drug prices in the United States are more than 250-percent higher than other industrialized nations.

What is our simple solution? The VA, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, that we empower with the lives of our veterans and their healthcare—they negotiate the prices of the drugs they purchase and dispense for our Nation's veterans. One report found that the VA price is often half as much as what Medicare pays. Why? It is simple. The VA negotiates for prices; Medicare doesn't.

I kind of think—and Senator SANDERS and I know this well—that 46 million seniors in America could get a pretty good deal if you allow the government to negotiate on their behalf, a good deal for the taxpayers of this country, for people who care about deficits, for people who care about the bottom-line budget, and a good deal for customers.

Guess what. It wouldn't just help seniors because that is such a large block of customers in this country that it would bring down the drug costs for everyone.

The stories in my State—people like Claire from St. Paul. When the cost of the prescription drug she relied on to manage her rheumatoid arthritis jumped from $60 a month to $1,400 per month, she could no longer afford it. In her words, her arthritis became so bad that she could barely handle a fork and a knife or the young man who is the manager of a restaurant, a full-time job. When he aged off his parents' insurance, what happened to him? You know this story, Madam President. He started to ration his insulin. He had severe diabetes, and he died. His mother has made her life about getting better drug prices.

Senator SANDERS and I believe you start with the biggest buying block. You start with seniors. You get that negotiation going, and it will make a big difference.

For people who believe in free markets and negotiation and competition, I don't know how you can say no to this proposal. It is time to allow this to be debated to move forward with this bill. Let's get it on the floor and call it up for a vote.

Thank you, Senator SANDERS.

Mr. SANDERS. Senator KLOBUCHAR said it all. I know we are spending the week dealing with Assistant Secretaries or something or another—and that is all terribly important—but the American people want us to start acting on their needs.

At the top of the list, as Senator KLOBUCHAR just said—and what she said about folks in Minnesota is exactly the same everywhere. You hear the same stories in Vermont. People die and get sick because they can't afford prescription drugs.

I say to my Republican friend, the time is now to have that debate. You want to vote against this bill? Hey, that is your right. You go home and explain it to the people. That is what democracy is. Some of us still believe in democracy, by the way.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined today by the majority leader, following consultation of the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 3615, which was introduced earlier today; that there be 2 hours for debate, equally divided; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the bill be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, our Nation's seniors deserve meaningful solutions that increase prescription drug access and affordability.

This bill, unfortunately, would double down on the deepest flaws in our current healthcare system and usher in a host of new problems from fewer treatments to more bureaucracy. And, yes, it is almost certain under this legislation we would see launch prices for new drugs actually increase. The solution is not to go and double down on a failed socialist theory of price-fixing and work to make our market better.

Even setting aside the overwhelming implementation challenges and technical issues that this legislation would present from the outset, the provisions included would do far more harm than good, particularly for the very older Americans they are intended to help.

I would note from the outset there is talk about wanting to have process and a vote. This legislation was just introduced today. It just got a bill number today. There has been no vetting of this legislation in the committee, which is the regular order of this Senate. There has been no public analysis. There has been no public review. There has not been any hearing on this legislation. There has been not any negotiation on this legislation.

I heard numbers thrown out here about what a savings this would be. CBO has not scored this legislation, and there are serious flaws with it.

Under this proposal, we would see a staggering decline in the game-changing research and development that our universities, medical centers, and entrepreneurs conduct every day, as vital investments in the cures of the future would decline.

As countless studies of price control mandates like the one before us today have concluded, these policies would slash new drug discoveries in the years to come, jeopardizing some of the highest risk projects, in particular.

Potential treatments targeted at conditions affecting seniors at high

rates, like certain cancers, would likely suffer the greatest impact, as Medicare would become increasingly stagnant and unable to meet the evolving needs of rapidly aging populations.

After coming in under budget with satisfaction rates soaring and premiums remaining remarkably stable, Medicare Part D would lose the market-driven structure that has made it such a success story for so many seniors. Instead, we would move closer to a government-run healthcare system—which is the ideal and the goal—where bureaucratic price controls like these would become the norm.

The vast majority of Americans, in my opinion, still reject the notion of a government-run healthcare system and price controls in place of a free market.

Meanwhile, our frontline healthcare providers have weathered a truly unprecedented 2 years of pandemic, and they would face a sweeping, immediate, and drastic payment cut as this legislation aims to advance immediate payment reductions under Medicare Part B with direct implications for doctors and other healthcare professionals across all settings.

In the face of widespread provider burnout, retirements, closures, and consolidation, these cuts risk accelerating trends that already jeopardize access to healthcare for far too many Americans from all walks of life, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

The VA, which has been referenced here, for its part, would inevitably see higher healthcare costs as any discounts or other price concessions that lower drug costs for our Nation's veterans would disappear.

Previous payment systems along these lines that have been suggested in the past have resulted in a host of unintended consequences, from higher launch prices to withheld rebates and discounts.

Our veterans do not stand to gain from being tied to this unvetted and failed new proposal.

As we confront unprecedented challenges at home and abroad, we must look to consensus-driven solutions that meet Americans' everyday needs, including prescription drug access and affordability. We can agree on that.

Members across the political spectrum have developed bipartisan drug pricing policies that could make a meaningful difference for workers and families. I have introduced legislation which is waiting in the committee for a vetting rather than coming to the floor here to try to get it brought to the floor without even going through Senate regular order.

My legislation is called the Lower Cost, More Cures Act. Here is just a quick summary of what it contains: a hard cap on annual out-of-pocket spending for all seniors under Medicare Part B, with an installment-based monthly payment option; reforming of Medicare Part B benefits to reduce seniors' cost-sharing burdens and incentivize plans to negotiate the best possible deal for enrollees; increasing Part D plan choices; increasing options; and reducing prices.

My bill does have an out-of-pocket monthly insulin cap at $35. That, you might remember, is the insulin cap that President Trump put into place. That is the kind of approach we need to follow.

It also includes establishing a chief pharmaceutical negotiator to combat foreign freeloading and ensuring the best trade deals that achieve American success in dealing with these price discrepancies that are driven by terrible behavior from our counterparts in other parts of the global economy; strengthening our consumer-oriented oversight through our cost-comparison tools and price transparency measures and robust reporting requirements in the drug supply chain; facilitating value-based arrangements where private and public sector payers can pay based on patient outcomes, driving better results for patients; and restructuring payments for drugs administered in the doctor's office or hospital outpatient department to encourage physicians to deliver cost-effective treatment options where appropriate clinically.

My point is, there are a lot of solutions that can work within the consistent free market and private sector solutions that we have solved here and are working on to make them better.

We have an opportunity to lower prescription drug costs without threatening access to therapies or cures or the future handling of giving an advantage, frankly, to our global rivals like the Chinese. With a bipartisan and bicameral effort undertaken through regular order, we could make a major impact on these issues. This legislation, unfortunately, does no such thing. It is thoroughly unvetted, showing no signs of technical assistance or practical feasibility. It has not, as I said, received a CBO score or even an informal analysis or a committee hearing. It did not advance through regular process in the Senate.

I see that our time is running out, and so I will end my comments at this point but just ask my colleagues to let us engage in regular order in the Finance Committee in the Senate and work these issues through. There are a lot of ideas on the table. Let's work them through rather than try to cram through one side's idea on the very day the bill was introduced in the Senate. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The objection is heard.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. I say to my friend from Idaho, we have been going through regular order dealing with prescription drugs for 40 years. It hasn't quite worked.

Your bill has gone nowhere. My bill has gone nowhere. If you have got objections to what Senator KLOBUCHAR and I are doing, let's debate them on the floor of the Senate.

We have heard all the talking points from you that the pharmaceutical industry wrote—I got that. They spend a lot of money writing these talking points. Let's have that debate right here. The bill that Senator KLOBUCHAR and I are proposing is supported by over 80 percent of the American people and, I dare say, a vast majority of the people of Idaho. You want to oppose it. Go for it.

Let's have the damn debate right here on the floor, and if it takes 1 week, great. If it takes 2 weeks, great. You will agree with me that this is an issue that the American people care about so I would hope that you would reconsider. Let's bring it to the floor. Offer your amendments. Let's have the debate.

NOMINATION OF LEONARD PHILIP STARK

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Leonard Stark to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Judge Stark is an exceptional and experienced jurist. For the past 14 years, he has served the District of Delaware—first, as a magistrate judge and, since 2010, as a district court judge.

He has presided over 6,000 civil and criminal cases, including 2,400 patent matters and 63 patent trials.

This experience will be of particular importance on the Federal Circuit for two reasons. First, unlike the 12 other courts of appeals, the Federal Circuit has a specialized jurisdiction; it hears all of the Nation's patent appeals. Second, Judge Stark would replace the only active judge on the court who has previously served as a trial judge. This makes his extensive background as a trial judge especially valuable.

Judge Stark brings with him considerable experience serving on Federal appeals panels. He has sat, by designation, on the Third and Federal Circuits, where he heard 54 appeals and authored 11 unanimous opinions. Before joining the bench, Judge Stark served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Delaware for 4 years. He worked as a litigation associate at an international law firm. And he clerked on the Third Circuit.

Judge Stark earned his bachelor of arts, bachelor of science, and master of arts simultaneously at the University of Delaware. He was awarded the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship and received a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Oxford. He also holds a J.D. from Yale Law School. With such impressive credentials, it is clear why the American Bar Association rated Judge Stark unanimously as ''Well Qualified'' to sit on the Federal Circuit.

His expertise in adjudicating patents combined with his experience hearing appeals will be an asset to the Federal Circuit and to our industrious, inventive Nation. I will be voting for Judge Stark's confirmation, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Alexandra Baker, of New Jersey, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

VOTE ON BAKER NOMINATION

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 75, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 47 Ex.]

YEAS—75

Baldwin	Hassan	Portman
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Risch
Blunt	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Hoeven	Sanders
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	Kennedy	Shelby
Carper	King	Sinema
Casey	Klobuchar	Smith
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Sullivan
Cornyn	Manchin	Tester
Cortez Masto	Markey	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Tillis
Crapo	Menendez	Van Hollen
Daines	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wicker
Graham	Padilla	Wyden
Grassley	Peters	Young

NAYS—21

Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Johnson	Rubio
Cassidy	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Marshall	Toomey
Fischer	Moran	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—4

Barrasso	Luján
Ernst	Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, for the information of Members, we are going to have four more votes tonight. I urge Members to sit in their seats so we can get these done quickly, like we did last week.

I ask unanimous consent that the votes be 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Reta Jo Lewis, of Georgia, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2025.

VOTE ON LEWIS NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 48 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Romney
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	Kennedy	Schumer
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Sinema
Casey	Leahy	Smith
Cassidy	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wicker
Graham	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Portman	

NAYS—40

Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hoeven	Sasse
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Johnson	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	
Grassley	Paul	

NOT VOTING—4

Barrasso	Luján
Blunt	Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on confirmation of the Stark and MacBride nominations.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Leonard Philip Stark, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit.

VOTE ON STARK NOMINATION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Stark nomination?

Mr. HEINRICH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient question?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 61, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 49 Ex.]

YEAS—61

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Burr	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	Kennedy	Shaheen
Capito	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Tillis
Coons	Menendez	Toomey
Cornyn	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Graham	Peters	
Grassley	Portman	

NAYS—35

Blackburn	Cruz	Hyde-Smith
Boozman	Daines	Inhofe
Braun	Ernst	Johnson
Cassidy	Fischer	Lankford
Cotton	Hagerty	Lee
Cramer	Hawley	Lummis
Crapo	Hoeven	Marshall

McConnell	Sasse	Thune
Moran	Scott (FL)	Tuberville
Paul	Scott (SC)	Wicker
Risch	Shelby	Young
Rubio	Sullivan	

NOT VOTING—4

Barrasso	Luján
Blunt	Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

VOTE ON MACBRIDE NOMINATION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the MacBride nomination?

Ms. WARREN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 61, nays 33, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 50 Ex.]

YEAS—61

Bennet	Graham	Risch
Blumenthal	Grassley	Romney
Booker	Hassan	Rosen
Brown	Hickenlooper	Sasse
Burr	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	Kelly	Schumer
Capito	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Cassidy	Manchin	Tester
Collins	McConnell	Thune
Coons	Menendez	Tillis
Cornyn	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warner
Crapo	Murray	Warnock
Daines	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Padilla	Wicker
Durbin	Peters	Wyden
Feinstein	Portman	
Gillibrand	Reed	

NAYS—33

Baldwin	Hirono	Moran
Blackburn	Hoeven	Paul
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Braun	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lankford	Shelby
Cruz	Lee	Sullivan
Ernst	Lummis	Toomey
Fischer	Markey	Tuberville
Hagerty	Marshall	Warren
Hawley	Merkley	Young

NOT VOTING—6

Barrasso	Heinrich	Rounds
Blunt	Luján	Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The majority leader.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask that the Senate now vote on the motion to discharge the Bagenstos nomination, as under the previous order.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the question is on the motion to discharge.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 51 Ex.]

YEAS—48

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

NAYS—47

Blackburn	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Murkowski	Young
Graham	Paul	

NOT VOTING—5

Barrasso	Heinrich	Rounds
Blunt	Luján	

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). The nomination is discharged and will be placed on the calendar.

The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, upon the conclusion of morning business tomorrow, February 10, the Senate proceed to consideration of Calendar No. 264, H.R. 4445; that the time until 11 a.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that at 11 a.m. the bill be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill without further intervening action or debate; further, that upon on disposition of H.R. 4445, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Vekich nomination and, at 11:45, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination, and, if cloture is invoked, the Senate vote on confirmation of the Vekich nomination at 1:45 p.m.; finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session, the motions 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had I been present, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Scott A. Nathan, of Massachusetts, to be Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation.

REMEMBERING DR. DON GURNETT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to recognize the life and memory of Dr. Donald Gurnett. Dr. Gurnett recently passed away following a lifetime of scientific curiosity and achievements. Dr. Gurnett studied, taught, and researched at the University of Iowa for more than 60 years.

His career was rooted in his childhood interest in flight, where he built rockets and model planes, which led to studying electrical engineering at the University of Iowa. During his studies, he had the opportunity to work and learn with Dr. James Van Allen, who helped launch the first U.S. satellite into space and established the field of magnetospheric space research. Dr.

Gurnett's success led to working on more than 30 spacecraft projects, including *Voyager* 1 and 2 flights to the outer planets, the *Galileo* mission to Jupiter, and the *Cassini* mission to Saturn.

His legacy remains with the students he mentored by pushing them to take on important projects and work towards their own success. In 2019, I wrote about the importance of STEM education and the accomplishments by Drs. Van Allen and Gurnett. I think my words then still encompass the curiosity and passion that Dr. Gurnett carried with him throughout his life.

For the students across Iowa heading to class in the new school year, remember to dream big. Don't forget that a couple of farm boys from Mount Pleasant and Fairfax reached for the stars and wrote new chapters of space innovation and exploration. Their odyssey took them all over the world and their scientific quest took their research beyond the solar system to interstellar space.

TRIBUTE TO THERESE FRANCIS GILES

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Therese Giles, a devoted public servant who tirelessly served our Nation with distinction in the Department of the Navy for almost four decades. Therese recently retired on December 31, 2021, after a successful 37-year government civil service career as an honored and distinguished senior flight controls computer scientist.

Therese's remarkable career and her immeasurable contributions to our national security can be categorized by so many unbelievable ''firsts'' and by a lifetime of selfless service.

As a child, Therese was always intrigued with the next technological offering—from watching NASA put the first man on the Moon, to the advances in next generation communications, to the invention of the integrated core processer. Inspired by these ''firsts,'' she pushed to be one of the firsts in her class, team, and field, carrying a life's dream of making a difference in the technical field where women were very scarce and disappointingly undervalued.

At a time when women weren't encouraged to pursue technical careers and weren't thought of as computer scientists, Therese pushed forward and persevered to achieve undergraduate and advanced degrees in mathematics and computer science.

Wanting to be part of something bigger than herself, Therese found her calling with the Navy's aviation research and development command. As a junior software computer scientist in the mid-1980s, she was instrumental in developing the innovative, first-ever, advanced digital flight controls architecture that revolutionized the way all Navy and Marine Corps jet aircraft operated.

Therese was also instrumental in resolving the catastrophic failures of the V–22 Osprey in the early 1990s and generating the software solutions that eventually returned the V–22 to flight and to the successful combat operations of today.

With similar accomplishments across the F–14, A–6, F–18, E–2, and the F–35 spectrum of aircraft, Therese directly contributed and helped develop the flight control and safety control systems of the majority of every naval aircraft from 1985 to current day.

Throughout these many successes and ''firsts,'' Therese has remained committed to supporting and inspiring the next generation of young women in STEM fields. Serving as an avid mentor, teacher, and leader of the people around her, Therese has been a North Star role model for generations of up-and-coming young women to follow their dreams and become technical leaders in public service.

In addition to her thirst for discovery and problem solving, a primary reason for Therese's tenacious focus is that she had personal ''skin in the game'' when it came to our Nation's security. Four of Therese's siblings proudly served in our Nation's military: Therese's brothers VADM Mat Winter, USN; CDR Tom Winter, USN; Capt. Steve Winter, USMC; and sister CDR Elizabeth Winter Scruggs, USNR, all put their lives in harm's way during their military careers to ensure our Nation's security. Therese's husband, Tim, is himself a retired member of the government civil service and an Army veteran. This is a family where duty and service run deep.

Therese, as you and your family celebrate your well-deserved retirement, I congratulate you and thank you for almost four decades of unbelievable and lasting impact. I thank you for the many years of sacrifice you and your family have made in service to our Nation. I join my colleagues in the Senate and all Americans in expressing our sincere appreciation and wish the very best for you, your husband, your son Eric, and daughter Meghan on your next exciting chapter.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GLORIA BLICK

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Mrs. Gloria Miller Blick, a Connecticut resident who turns 100 on March 1, 2022.

Mrs. Blick is a lifelong advocate for the elderly, who has worked tirelessly to inspire positive change.

She was appointed to the Commission for the Aged by then-mayor of Stamford, Dannel Malloy. Mrs. Blick was also active as a member of Stamford's Smith House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center's board of directors and Southwest CT Agency on Aging's advisory board. Later, she served 8 years as the chairwoman of Stamford's Senior Centers board of directors.

Mrs. Blick's advocacy had far-reaching results. Passionate about providing end-of-life options and other choices for the elderly, she spoke before the Connecticut State Senate. Her statement took prominence in the State's discussion regarding access to medical marijuana for elderly people with glaucoma, a condition she has faced for nearly two decades. Her commitment to supporting those who are marginalized and underserved inspired her son, Dr. Gary Blick, to pursue a medical career and a lifetime of humanitarian work. She even worked as the office manager for his practice for over 20 years and his billing specialist for over 30, commuting independently at age 97.

A remarkable advocate, I applaud Mrs. Blick on her outstanding record of service. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mrs. Gloria Blick, her son Gary, and the rest of her family on this milestone of her 100th birthday.•

REMEMBERING HENRY C. ''HOPPY'' SHORES

• Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a dedicated public servant, Army veteran, proud West Virginian, and my very good friend, Henry C. ''Hoppy'' Shores.

Put simply, Hoppy embodied what it means to be a true West Virginian, and the legacy he has left behind is an important part of our heritage. I believe that there is no greater accomplishment than being in a position to give back to your community, and Hoppy's work in public service truly benefited our home State in a profound way that touched countless lives. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt once said, ''Since you get more joy out of giving joy to others, you should put a good deal of thought into the happiness that you are able to give.'' In that spirit, I am forever grateful to Hoppy for his commitment to his community and our shared passion for serving the people of West Virginia.

Born in Dunbar in 1930 to the late Henry Eugene and Mary Elizabeth Shores, Hoppy spent much of his life in the Kanawha Valley. He excelled in athletics as a legendary running back for Stonewall Jackson High School. As the star of his 1947 State championship team, Hoppy capped off his high school career as a Kennedy Award winner. In addition, he held a longstanding record in the 440-yard dash and was elected class president his senior year. Even then, his leadership skills were widely recognized. Following his glowing high school career, Hoppy attended West Virginia University on the Loyalty Endowment Scholarship, where his wide range of accomplishments continued.

Hoppy's life of service began in the U.S. Army, where he rose to the rank of major. I have always said that West Virginia is home to the most patriotic, hard-working people in the Nation; and Hoppy was no exception. Returning to Kanawha County after his military

service to our Nation concluded, Hoppy continued giving back as a coach and supporter of one of the local Little League football teams. Hoppy was well-known as a tenacious supporter of youth sports in the Kanawha Valley and, for many years, would continue to support the youth of the valley in a variety of initiatives. Good coaches win games, but great coaches, like Hoppy, have a lasting impact on your life. They are models for how to manage success and failure—and how to take the lessons you have learned in athletics and apply them to your adult life. I can only begin to imagine how many leaders Hoppy forged throughout his time as a coach—and how many of his former athletes still look up to him to this day.

Hoppy and his beloved wife Bronson, who shared his life for 68 years, raised their four children in Charleston. Despite his illustrious life filled with awards, accolades and achievements, Hoppy always considered his family his greatest accomplishment of all. He built a successful career in insurance; eventually, this career would culminate in the Hoppy Shores Insurance Company. His impeccable work ethic was well-known, and all those he worked with considered him an honest, fair, and kind soul.

As a successful businessman, family man, and youth sports supporter, Hoppy extended his civic engagement to elected positions. Hoppy dedicated 42 years to the Kanawha County Commission where he will be remembered for his staunch commitment to Yeager Airport and the Kanawha County Parks and Recreation board. He loved ''Hoppy's Little Express Train'' and his big smile atop the engine brought joy to each and every onlooker he rode past. As the longest serving Kanawha County commissioner in history, with an unmatched record of public service, the commission courtroom was named ''The Henry C. 'Hoppy' Shores Courtroom'' in his honor. I believe this outstanding tribute is a testament to his dedication to the citizens of Kanawha County. In addition to his 42 years on the Kanawha County Commission, Hoppy added 4 years of service in the West Virginia Legislature, where he will be remembered as a tenacious advocate for his neighbors in the Valley.

Everything Hoppy stood for and represented lives on in the hearts and minds of all who had the privilege of knowing him, myself included. I was honored to call him a friend, and I know I join so many when I say West Virginia has lost a shining star. Hundreds of tributes have poured in about our friend Hoppy since his passing, but there is one tribute that I think best shows who he was. Soccer was an emerging sport in the State, and Kanawha County was deliberating building a major soccer complex. The idea was hitting resistance, and it became the subject of a county commission meeting. During the public meeting, a young girl made a presentation about the importance of soccer in her life. Some opponents of the project began heckling the brave young girl. It is reported that the lack of decorum and bullying displayed by those opponents angered Hoppy so much that he looked at fellow County Commissioners Kent Carper and Ben Salango and said, ''Let's just do it.'' And that is how the Shawnee Sports Complex came to be. I know that every time I visit Shawnee, I will think of Hoppy siding with that brave little girl and smile.

So many people have inspirational stories about Hoppy. It is my hope that his many friends and family have found peace, strength, and support in one another and in the support of our entire home State for our shared loss of this wonderful person. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

What is most important is that he lived a full life, surrounded by the people he loved most. Gayle and I offer our deepest condolences to Hoppy's wife of 68 years, Bronson; and their children, Henry, Sherry, Scott, and Lynn; his many friends; and extended family. We will forever keep Hoppy and his family in our thoughts and prayers.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CON PAULOS CHEVROLET

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, along with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO and Representative MIKE SIMPSON, I rise to congratulate the Paulos Family on their 100th anniversary of having a Chevrolet Franchise continuously in operation.

On Februav 22, 1922, Con Paulos' grandfather, Gus A. Paulos, opened a Chevrolet franchise in Magna, UT. After Gus was killed in an automobile accident, his sons carried on the family business for 42 years in Utah. In 1975, Pete G. Paulos and Ernest A. Paulos, along with their sons Con P. Paulos and Gus E. Paulos, moved the store from Magna to West Valley City, UT. In 1979, Con P. Paulos moved to Jerome, ID, and opened Con Paulos Chevrolet, which is the only Paulos family-owned store that continues to operate.

With the help of his outstanding staff, Con has built his business reputation on providing quality automobiles to his loyal customers honestly and ethically. Con has not only created a successful business, he has also become an important part of the Magic Valley region and the State through his community leadership. He is committed to growing, improving, and developing the local economy, while furthering opportunities for fellow Idahoans. For years, Con has participated in many community service projects and organizations: 60 Hours to Fight Hunger, Santa's Cause, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Sub for Santa, Boys & Girls Club, Rising Stars, Valley House, Business Plus, Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Twin Falls Area Transportation Committee, and the Rotary Club, to name just a few.

In our tenure serving Idaho in the statehouse and in Congress, we have had the opportunity to work with Con on many important State and national issues. He is someone we trust to provide valuable insight and advice on many subjects. In addition, we have had the pleasure of recreating with Con in various settings, including a duck blind in Hagerman and on the links of Blue Lakes Country Club. Con is a straight shooter in the field, on the golf course, in his business, family, community, and his life.

Today, the fourth generation of the Paulos family, Peter ''Costa'' Paulos, is actively helping Con operate the dealership, continuing the family's legacy. Costa also recently added a new member to the Paulos family with the birth of Gus, Con's new grandson. Foreshadowing the future, Baby Gus could possibly keep the Paulos family Chevrolet line intact for a remarkable fifth generation.

Congratulations to Con, his family, and all the employees of Con Paulos Chevrolet on 100 years of outstanding service to Magic Valley, ID and the Nation. You make our great State proud, and we look forward to your continued growth and success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:22 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 566. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42 Main Street in Slatersville, Rhode Island, as the ''Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte Post Office''.

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

H.R. 735. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 502 East Cotati Avenue in Cotati, California, as the ''Arturo L. Ibleto Post Office Building''.

H.R. 2324. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2800 South Adams Street in Tallahassee, Florida, as the ''D. Edwina Stephens Post Office''.

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

H. Con. Res. 69. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

At 12:49 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3485. An act to impose sanctions on foreign persons responsible for violations of internationally recognized human rights against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) individuals, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3539. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 223 West Chalan Santo Papa in Hagatna,

Guam, as the ''Atanasio Taitano Perez Post Office''.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 735. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 502 East Cotati Avenue in Cotati, California, as the ''Arturo L. Ibleto Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2324. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2800 South Adams Street in Tallahassee, Florida, as the ''D. Edwina Stephens Post Office''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3485. An act to impose sanctions on foreign persons responsible for violations of internationally recognized human rights against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 3539. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 223 West Chalan Santo Papa in Hagatna, Guam, as the ''Atanasio Taitano Perez Post Office''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3600. A bill to improve the cybersecurity of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3076. An act to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6617. An act making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3623. A bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Special Report entitled ''National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2019'' (Rept. No. 117–69).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

*Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

*Dimitri Kusnezov, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security.

By Mr. SANDERS for the Committee on the Budget.

*Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

*Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 3604. A bill to prohibit Federal funds from being made available to any preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, or secondary school that has a facemask mandate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 3605. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide formula grants to States to improve higher education opportunities for foster youth and homeless youth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3606. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the requirement to specify an effective period of transfer of Post-9/11 educational assistance to a dependent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. REED, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 3607. A bill to award a Congressional gold medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 3608. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to identify content-agnostic platform interventions to reduce the harm of algorithmic aplification and social media addiction on covered platforms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WARNOCK, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 3609. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a gasoline tax holiday; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 3610. A bill to establish a program to provide environmental assistance in the Chattahoochee River Basin, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3611. A bill to provide for improvements in the reimbursement of eligible health care providers through the Provider Relief Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 3612. A bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and the STOCK Act to require certain senior officials to report payments received from the Federal Government, to improve the filing and disclosure of financial disclosures by Members of Congress, congressional staff, very senior employees, and others, and to ban stock trading for certain senior Government officials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3613. A bill to prohibit the housing of chimpanzees at installations of the Department of the Air Force; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3614. A bill to prohibit the importation of seafood and seafood products from the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3615. A bill to establish a cap on costs for covered prescription drugs under Medicare parts B and D; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 3616. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the financial aid process for homeless and foster care youth; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 3617. A bill to amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 to modify the authority of the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the United States Anti-Doping Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 3618. A bill to amend the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015 to require Federal agencies to obtain exemptions from certain cybersecurity requirements in order to avoid compliance with those requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 3619. A bill for the relief of Vichai Sae Tung (also known as Chai Chaowasaree); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 3620. A bill to establish the Commission for the Comprehensive Study of Health Data Use and Privacy Protection; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3621. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a National Climate Adaptation Science Center and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers to respond to the effects of extreme weather events and climate trends, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. COONS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 3622. A bill to establish an AmeriCorps Administration to carry out the national and volunteer service programs, to expand participation in such programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. BURR):

S. 3623. A bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 , and for other purposes; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 508. A resolution honoring the memories of the victims of the senseless attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14, 2018; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. REED, Mr. KING, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 509. A resolution honoring Thomas Edward Patrick Brady, Jr., the 7-time Super Bowl champion who played for the New England Patriots for 20 incredible seasons, and briefly the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for 2 seasons, for a combined 22 seasons in the National Football League; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 212

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 212, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind.

S. 657

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 657, a bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 819

At the request of Ms. ERNST, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 819, a bill to enhance the security of the United States and its allies, and for other purposes.

S. 1125

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1125, a bill to recommend that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation test the effect of a dementia care management model, and for other purposes.

S. 1289

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1289, a bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reauthorize and modify the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1408

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 1408, a bill to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 1486

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 1486, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

S. 2342

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 2342, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration of disputes involving sexual assault and sexual harassment.

S. 2736

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2736, a bill to exclude vehicles to be used solely for competition from certain provisions of the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3017

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3017, a bill to expand the provision and availability of dental care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3052

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3052, a bill to promote free and fair elections, democracy, political freedoms, and human rights in Cambodia, and for other purposes.

S. 3481

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3481, a bill to secure the dignity and safety of incarcerated women.

S. 3487

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3487, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to increase death gratuities and funeral allowances for Federal employees, and for other purposes.

S. 3494

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3494, a bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to require Members of Congress and their spouses and dependents to place certain assets into blind trusts, and for other purposes.

S. 3514

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3514, a bill to repeal COVID–19 vaccination requirements imposed by the District of Columbia.

S. 3522

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3522, a bill to provide enhanced authority for the President to enter into agreements with the Government of Ukraine to lend or lease defense articles to that Government to protect civilian populations in Ukraine from Russian military invasion, and for other purposes.

S. 3532

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3532, a bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to Ansarallah and its officials, agents, or affiliates for acts of international terrorism.

S. 3542

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3542, a bill to prevent the misuse of drones, and for other purposes.

S. 3546

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3546, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the amendments made to reporting of third party network transactions by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

S. 3599

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3599, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from requiring taxpayers to provide biometric information.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3621. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish

a National Climate Adaptation Science Center and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers to respond to the effects of extreme weather events and climate trends, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Climate Adaptation Science Center Act, or CASC Act. This bill authorizes the national and nine regional CASCs that came about after Congress appropriated funding for a National Climate Science Center in 2008 and subsequently, in 2009, Department of the Interior Secretary Salazar recognized the Department as the lead Agency for protecting the country's cultural and natural resources via secretarial order.

The national and regional CASCs are housed within the U.S. Geological Survey, USGS. The national CASC is located in Reston, VA, and the nine regional CASCs are dispersed throughout the country from Hawaii, to Alaska to Massachusetts. These regional CASCs service stakeholders in the continental United States, Hawaii, Alaska, U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands, USAPI, and the U.S. Caribbean. The purpose of these CASCs is to help protect cultural and natural resources by developing the science and tools that on-the-ground managers need to respond to the effects of climate change.

One regional CASC, the Pacific Island CASC, or PI-CASC, is a partnership between the USGS and a university consortium hosted by the University of Hawaii at Manoa, with the University of Hawaii at Hilo and the University of Guam. PI-CASC was established in October 2011 and over the course of more than a decade has conducted important climate research informed by impacted stakeholders, developed products and tools for resource managers to address climate change, and provided programs to increase capacity and stakeholder networking.

Over 100 research projects have been completed to address stakeholder needs across the Hawaiian Islands and USAPI, such as prioritization planning for coastal wetland restoration on Molokai, developing a climate and GIS data portal for American Samoa, and predicting and mitigating avian disease at Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge on Hawaii Island. Over a dozen different products and tools have been developed by PI-CASC, including sea level forecasting tools for communities throughout the Pacific, a database on weed fire risk throughout Hawaii, and an agroforestry tool for Marshallese agricultural producers. Programs that have been made possible by the PI-CASC include a Manager Climate Corps on Hawaii Island, a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, and a Pacific Regional Invasive Species & Climate Change Management Program.

These are just examples of research, products, and programs made possible by one regional CASC. The nine regional CASCs are providing similar services all across the country. Currently, stakeholder demand for CASC system services outpaces available resources. Additionally, in the coming years and decades, the challenges that on-the-ground resource managers face with climate change are only going to become more numerous and complex. As such, this bill is necessary to formally establish the CASCs in law so that the important work that the national and nine regional CASCs conduct can continue assisting stakeholders all across the country for decades to come.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. COONS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 3622. A bill to establish an AmeriCorps Administration to carry out the national and volunteer service programs, to expand participation in such programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, service is at the heart of the Americans ethos. We take inspiration from those who have answered the call to serve, whether in defense of our Nation abroad or in strengthening our communities at home. Finding common cause through service is how we will overcome the major challenges of our time, from recovering from the COVID–19 pandemic to addressing inequality to strengthening civil society and democratic institutions to leaving a healthy, resilient planet to future generations. That is why I am proud to join Congressman JOHN LARSON of Connecticut in introducing the America's Call to Improving Opportunities Now, ACTION for National Service Act. Our legislation calls for a historic expansion of the number of service opportunities and an increased investment in those who serve.

The ACTION for National Service Act will honor our national value of service, while addressing the barriers that limit citizens' opportunities to serve. Our legislation will set us on a path to 1 million national service positions within 10 years. It will increase the educational award so that an individual completing 2 full years of service will earn the equivalent of 4 years of the average in-state tuition at a public college or university. Indeed, those who are willing to serve should not be left to carry a heavy financial burden of student loan debt. The ACTION for National Service Act will also ease other financial barriers to service by increasing the living allowance and eliminating the tax liability for the education awards and living stipends. The bill calls for a robust outreach effort to ensure that all young people will know about the many opportunities to serve their country and their communities. It will mobilize a Civilian Climate Corps to address the urgent needs of hardest hit communities. Finally, the ACTION for National Service Act calls for elevating the Corporation for National and Community Service to a Cabinet-level Agency and establishes a National Service Foundation to leverage private sector resources to support national service activities.

Mr. President, it is time we reinvigorate the social contract we have with each other. Americans have a deep tradition of service, starting with the dedicated men and women of our Armed Forces and including all those who have served in AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and the Peace Corps. However, as more Americans desire to serve, it is important that they be given the opportunity to do so. It is just as important to invest in the education and professional development of those who have sacrificed and given so much to our Nation. Developing the talents of our most committed citizens pays lifelong dividends. Our investment in the GI Bill not only honors our servicemembers but also enriches our Nation. Similarly, the education awards for those who have served through our national programs have economic impacts beyond the individuals who earn them. That is the new deal that the ACTION for National Service Act offers.

All AmeriCorps members take a pledge to get things done for Americans, to make communities safer, smarter and healthier, and to bring us together. It is a pledge we all should commit ourselves to.

I would like to thank Senators COONS, BALDWIN, BROWN, BLUMENTHAL, GILLIBRAND, and KLOBUCHAR for joining me as original cosponsors of the ACTION for National Service Act and to urge our colleagues to join us in working for its passage so we can ensure that all who aspire to serve have the opportunity to do so.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. BURR):

S. 3623. A bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes; read the first time.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022.

This bipartisan bill would reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act through 2027 and provide important updates to modernize the law that has been critical to protecting and supporting the survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

I was proud to support the original Violence Against Women Act in 1994 and have supported each reauthorization of the law.

This includes the most recent reauthorization in 2013, which passed the Senate by a strong bipartisan vote of 78 to 22.

It is an honor to introduce this reauthorization and expansion of protections for survivors.

This bill is the result of a truly bipartisan effort. I would like to thank Senator ERNST, Senator DURBIN, and Senator MURKOWSKI for working with me to prepare this important piece of legislation.

We have also had help from a number of our Senate colleagues who have made important contributions to this effort. I am proud that this bill has received strong bipartisan support in the Senate.

I would also like to thank the many advocates who have lent their thoughts and support to this effort. This bill was written in close consultation with the people who are on the frontlines helping survivors of domestic violence every day. It is not a Democratic bill or a Republican bill—it is a bill for survivors.

Together, we drafted a bill that preserves the good work of the last Violence Against Women Act reauthorization and strengthens existing programs.

For nearly 30 years, the Violence Against Women Act has played a vital role in the Federal response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. I hope that this bill will be an effective tool to build upon those efforts.

Despite the progress made over the last three decades, sexual, emotional, and physical abuse are still painful realities for far too many Americans. More than one in three women experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Nationwide, an average of three women are killed each day by a current or former intimate partner.

According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, in a single day in 2020, 76,525 domestic violence survivors received the resources they needed thanks to programs funded and supported by the Violence Against Women Act.

It is clear that the programs created by the Violence Against Women Act are necessary, and they need to be continually updated to meet the needs of survivors. The bipartisan bill that we are introducing today reauthorizes these important programs and provides the necessary updates to strengthen them.

This bill enhances and expands services for survivors of domestic violence, including survivors in rural communities, LGBT survivors, survivors with disabilities, and survivors who experience abuse later in life.

This bill reauthorizes and strengthens the criminal justice response to domestic violence, including by improving the Justice Department's STOP grant program; expanding support provided to survivors in the legal system; and strengthening the ability of Tribal courts to address instances of domestic violence on Tribal lands.

This bill also invests in prevention education efforts, improves the healthcare system's response to sexual violence across the country, and establishes a pilot program on restorative practices that focuses on preventing or addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking through community based, victim-initiated efforts to seek accountability.

I am pleased that we have strong bipartisan support for this bill, but our work is not done. The survivors—who this bill is for—need the Senate to not only introduce this bill but to pass it. The prevention of domestic violence and the support for survivors of these heinous crimes is not a partisan issue.

This is not a perfect bill. I regret that certain provisions were not able to be included in this bill, most notably the closure of the ''boyfriend loophole'' to ensure that individuals convicted of domestic abuse against a dating partner could not purchase firearms. Individuals convicted of domestic violence against a spouse are already prevented from purchasing a firearm, and it is deeply disappointing that there is not sufficient bipartisan support for this commonsense provision to close this loophole. I would have liked to include those additional provisions, as would many of my Senate colleagues. But though it is not perfect, it is a strong bill.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance this bill through the Senate and get it signed into law as soon as possible.

The time to act is now. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important bipartisan legislation, and I hope that it will come to the floor for a vote quickly.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 508—HONORING THE MEMORIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE SENSELESS ATTACK AT MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL ON FEBRUARY 14, 2018

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 508

Whereas, on February 14, 2018, a mass shooting that claimed the lives of 17 teachers and students took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida;

Whereas the people of the United States continue to pray for the individuals who were affected by this tragedy;

Whereas the Parkland community has shown strength, compassion, and unity in the past 4 years; and

Whereas February 14, 2022, marks 4 years since the horrific attack: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the memories of the victims of the senseless attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14, 2018, and offers heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to the families, loved ones, and friends of the victims;

(2) honors the survivors of the attack and pledges continued support for their recovery;

(3) recognizes the strength and resilience of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School community; and

(4) expresses gratitude to the emergency medical and health care professionals of the Parkland community for their efforts in responding to the attack and caring for the victims and survivors.

SENATE RESOLUTION 509—HONORING THOMAS EDWARD PATRICK BRADY, JR., THE 7-TIME SUPER BOWL CHAMPION WHO PLAYED FOR THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS FOR 20 INCREDIBLE SEASONS, AND BRIEFLY THE TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS FOR 2 SEASONS, FOR A COMBINED 22 SEASONS IN THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. REED, Mr. KING, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 509

Whereas Tom Brady, commonly known as ''TB12'' or ''the GOAT'', was born in San Mateo, California, on August 3, 1977;

Whereas, after graduating from Junipero Serra High School, Tom Brady matriculated at the University of Michigan, where he led the Wolverines football team to wins in the Citrus and Orange Bowls;

Whereas Tom Brady was drafted in the sixth round of the 2000 National Football League (referred to in this preamble as the ''NFL'') Draft with the 199th pick by the New England Patriots, a selection that many football analysts now regard as the best draft pick of all time;

Whereas Tom Brady was named the starting quarterback of the New England Patriots during the 2001 season and subsequently never had a losing season as a starting quarterback during his time in the NFL;

Whereas Tom Brady was instrumental in creating iconic moments in New England sports history, including—

(1) on January 19, 2002, leading the Patriots to a come-from-behind win in the American Football Conference Divisional playoffs against the Oakland Raiders during a blizzard in the last game ever played at Foxboro Stadium;

(2) on February 2, 2002, leading the New England Patriots to the franchise's first Super Bowl victory against the heavily favored St. Louis Rams;

(3) during the 2007 season, leading the New England Patriots with a record setting passing touchdown performance to a perfect 16-0 regular season; and

(4) on February 5, 2017, overcoming a 28-3 deficit against the Atlanta Falcons to win Super Bowl LI;

Whereas Tom Brady has won 7 Super Bowls, including 6 with the New England Patriots, and was a key member during the franchise's dynasty era, which spanned 2 decades;

Whereas Tom Brady has been—

(1) selected 3 times as the NFL's Most Valuable Player;

(2) selected 5 times as the Most Valuable Player of the Super Bowl;

(3) selected 6 times as an All-Pro player;

(4) selected to 15 Pro Bowls; and

(5) a consistent NFL leader in passing touchdowns, passing yards, passer rating, and completion percentage;

Whereas Tom Brady holds numerous NFL records, including—

(1) the most Super Bowl wins with 7;

(2) the most Super Bowl appearances with 10;

(3) the most career wins with 243;

(4) the most career passing completions with 7,263;

(5) the most career passing touchdowns with 624; and

(6) the most career passing yards with 84,520;

Whereas Tom Brady taught all of New England that the most important championship ring was ''the next one'';

Whereas Tom Brady earned the love and admiration of New England sports fans everywhere and buoyed the spirits of children through his work with the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Best Buddies;

Whereas Tom Brady brought incredible joy to New England and all of Patriots Nation, who loved watching him play; and

Whereas Tom Brady played his final NFL game on January 23, 2022: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the legendary career of Thomas Edward Patrick Brady, Jr., whose leadership, tenacity, and hard work defined a generation for Patriots Nation and whose legacy will continue to live on for years to come; and

(2) wishes Tom Brady a fulfilling post-professional football career as he bids farewell to the gridiron.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I have 12 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a classified briefing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 3 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

The Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NEAR EAST, SOUTH ASIA, CENTRAL ASIA AND COUNTERTERRORISM

The Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism of the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE AND SCIENCE

The Subcommittee on Space and Science of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, first, I would like to ask unanimous consent that my Defense fellow, Leslie Cornwall, be given floor privileges for the remainder of the 117th Congress.

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3623

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3623) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 10; that following the prayer and the 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; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 264, H.R. 4445, as provided under the previous order.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. For the information of Senators, we expect to have one rollcall vote at 11:45 a.m. and one vote at 1:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:56 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 10 a.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination pursuant to S. Res. 27 and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar:

SAMUEL R. BAGENSTOS, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate February 9, 2022:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOHN PATRICK COFFEY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

ALEXANDRA BAKER, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

DOUGLAS R. BUSH, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION

SCOTT A. NATHAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

NEIL HARVEY MACBRIDE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

THE JUDICIARY

LEONARD PHILIP STARK, OF DELAWARE, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT.

EXPORT–IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

RETA JO LEWIS, OF GEORGIA, TO BE PRESIDENT OF THE EXPORT–IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2025.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL COURT REPORTERS AND CAPTIONERS WEEK

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Court Reporters and Captioners Week. Court reporters and captioners are highly trained professionals who have the unique ability to convert spoken word into text that can be read, broadcasted and archived. This profession provides a vital service to our Nation. Their work results in real-time translation services for people who are deaf and hard of hearing in addition to providing near instant translations in other settings. Our Nation's captioners ensure all Americans have equal access to news and other critical information.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention my wife, Tawni, and her work as a court reporter. Tawni has been a fearless champion and advocate for real-time writers. Most notably, she developed a program to transcribe the Veterans History Project recordings. Now the Library of Congress has a written record of these stories. I want to extend my sincerest thanks to the real-time writers who have given their time to do this.

In the 117th Congress, I reintroduced the Training for Realtime Writers Act, which would reauthorize the Training for Realtime Writers Grant program and encourage careers in real-time writing and court reporting, provide scholarships for students, and modernize curriculum to adapt to our changing world.

The Training for Realtime Writers Grant Program has been successful in training the current generation of captioners and court reporters and has aided in the rapid growth of these professions. By reauthorizing the Training for Realtime Writers grants, students will have the opportunity to enter a technical, well-paid, and highly skilled career that will allow them to become court reporters and captioners immediately upon graduation.

From maintaining the integrity of our democracy to ensuring every citizen stays up to date on today's 24-hour news cycle, real-time writers are vital to Americans in all communities. Over the past decade, this program has encouraged a new generation of real-time writers to enter this important field. I want to acknowledge the court reporters and captioners in the House of Representatives, especially those who were on the House floor on January 6, 2021, when insurrectionists breached the Capitol. Their work is crucial to the sustained function of our government, and I thank them for their service and dedication to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I missed a Previous Question vote on February 8. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 35.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MAJOR GENERAL GARY WAYNE JOHNSTON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and service of Major General Gary Wayne Johnston who passed away on January 20, 2022. My deepest condolences are with his family, friends, and loved ones during this time of mourning.

Gary Johnston was born on October 21, 1964 in Russellville, Arkansas. He served in the U.S. Army for over 34 years. He served overseas in Germany, the first Gulf War and Afghanistan and commanded the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Additionally, he was a director of intelligence of the United States Special Operations Command and the deputy chief of staff for intelligence for Resolute Support Mission. After retiring from the Army in 2021, Gary joined Touchstone Futures as the executive Vice President for Intelligence, Security, and Risk. He served on the advisory board for Leyden Solutions.

Left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife, Brigadier General Amy Johnston; his mother, Bonnie; and children, Lauren, Blake, and Parker.

The Johnston family, and all those who had the opportunity to know and serve with him, are in my thoughts and prayers.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CURTIS HAYES MUHAMMAD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a remarkable individual, Curtis Hayes Muhammad.

Curtis Hayes Muhammad spent his entire life participating in various struggles for human rights and civil rights. His activism began in the fall of 1961. Only 18 years old, he was one of five young people from McComb, Mississippi, brave enough to respond to Bob Moses's call to begin direct action and community organizing there. He was a key member of SNCC's dangerous and groundbreaking efforts all over Mississippi throughout the sixties. Jailed many times for civil rights work, Curtis kept the principles of bottom up organizing learned from Moses and Ella Baker as the guiding foundation to subsequent efforts of union and community organizing and struggles for African Liberation. These beliefs in a cooperative society and bottom up organizing led by poor and dark-skinned people have been embraced by many contemporary movements for social justice today.

Curtis's early life experiences made him responsive to these movement ideals. He grew up in a family of sharecroppers in Chisolm Mission, Mississippi who had joined with 26 other sharecropping families and purchased a plot of land which they worked together. Raised by his grandmother, a midwife, he was taught principles of black independence and strength. Learning that his father had to flee Mississippi after killing several Ku Klux Klansmen in a gun fight, Curtis was determined to find ways to fight against Mississippi segregationists. He began preaching as a child and was encouraged by his grandmother that he had an important role to play in the liberation of black people.

Curtis's post-civil rights activism included helping to organize the 1963 Chicago School Boycott when 225,000 students walked out demanding an end to racial segregation and the disparate treatment of Black students. He was an organizer for the New Politics Convention that ran Dr. Benjamin Spock and Dick Gregory in the 1968 presidential election as third-party candidates. Curtis helped establish a radical Black bookstore in Washington, D.C. and helped create an early version of a Community Supported Agriculture project, bringing produce from Black farmers in the South to northern progressive communities in D.C. and NYC. He also worked on housing issues for poor people with the Harlem Reclamation Project which urged homeless people to take over abandoned brownstones and rehabilitate them, and thus extract ownership from the City. In Jersey City, NJ, following the same model, he assisted in the handing over of more than 60 brownstones to poor folks.

Later he worked as a union organizer for Unite in Monroe, LA. He successfully organized several dozen locals, mostly of Black women garment workers, using the Ella Baker model of organizing. As a result, the organized workers sometimes made decisions independent of and criticized by national union leaders such as calling for and enacting wildcat strikes. He went on with the now federated Unite-HERE to New Orleans organizing hotel and restaurant workers there and mentoring young folks in Union Summer. He also joined local New Orleans community members in Community Labor United, which worked on improving public education in New Orleans as the laboratory for a national Quality Education as a Civil Right Campaign.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life, legacy, and service of Mr. Curtis Hayes Muhammad.

RECOGNIZING DR. ROBERT ALLEN SHANKERMAN

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Dr. Robert Shankerman as United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley unveils a memorial display in his honor.

Dr. Shankerman began his medical career at Tulane Medical School where he was recognized as the 'Most Compassionate Physician.' He went on to complete his Internal Medicine residency at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. He practiced medicine in San Diego for eight years and served as associate clinical professor of medicine at UCSD Medical School. He was a diplomat for the American Board of Internal Medicine and was certified as an HIV specialist.

In 2000, Dr. Shankerman went to work at Clinica Sierra Vista in Bakersfield, California, where he served as Chief Medical Officer for ten years. For the last six years, he was responsible for supervising United Health Center's 70 primary care doctors, physician assistants and nurse practitioners, and the quality of care for almost 125,000 patients.

Dr. Shankerman was a valued member of our local health community, and it is with great pride that I recognize him for his service and dedication to the underserved communities of the Central Valley.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Dr. Robert Shankerman.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN NOLAN

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of John Nolan, a dedicated police investigator and beloved father and husband, who passed away on December 24, 2021.

John Nolan was a cherished member of the Central New York community, who attended Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary School as well as Bishop Ludden High School. John was a classmate of mine at Bishop Ludden and we remained friends. From an early age, John aspired to be a Syracuse Police Officer and fulfilled his childhood dream after graduating from the Police Academy in 1986.

With the Syracuse Police Department, John Nolan served with the Syracuse Police SWAT/Hostage-Crisis Negotiation Team, the Criminal Investigations Division, Investigations Bureau, and Cold Case Investigation Unit. He also devoted much of his time to mentoring the next generation of police officers, holding positions at the Syracuse Police Academy and serving as a guest lecturer at local universities and colleges. Following his retirement from the Syracuse Police Department, John continued his passion for investigative work by joining the Onondaga County District Attorney's office as a case investigator.

As a former organized prosecutor, I had the pleasure of working alongside John Nolan. John was a consummate professional and had a dogged determination for justice. For his work, John received a number of awards including the 1991 Syracuse Post 41 American Legion Police Officer of the Year, the 2001 Post-Standard Award, the 2002 and 2003 CNYCOP Law Enforcement Commendations, the 2004 PBA President's Award, the 2007 and 2016 Meritorious Service Awards, and the 2018 District Attorney's Distinguished Service Award.

Outside of his career in law enforcement, John was an engaged member of his community and a devoted husband to Patricia and father to Delaney. John championed an active lifestyle as an avid golfer, runner, and annual competitor at the Syracuse Mountain Goat Run, missing only one in over 35 years to attend his daughter's first communion.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring the life of John Nolan. A beloved member of Syracuse's law enforcement community, John will truly be missed. I ask my colleagues to keep him and his family in mind as we remember the contributions of this public servant.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF GRADY WIGGINTON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Grady Wigginton, as he passed away on January 31, 2022.

Mr. Wigginton was born just west of Guntown, MS on June 30, 1937. Mr. Wigginton was proud to grow up in rural Mississippi where he was able to learn about the nature and creatures of God's creation. After graduating from High school, Mr. Wigginton decided to join the USMC. In his time serving the country he achieved the great accomplishment of being promoted to the rank of Sergeant (E–4) in just twenty-two months. He believed in God first, Country second, and family third. We thank him for his commitment to service.

After Mr. Wigginton's service to his country, he worked for CPI. At CPI he went on to become both a district and regional manager. He enjoyed hiring and working with new employees as he saw it was his responsibility to motivate them to do their jobs to the best of their ability. Due to his commitment to a hard-working staff, both his district and regional teams won multiple awards for sales and profit.

Mr. Wigginton will be greatly missed, and we thank him for his service to his country and community.

HONORING QUINLAN-HAMMOND HALL OF HONOR

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, today, we celebrate the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony for the Quinlan-Hammond Hall of Honor at the University of Southern Mississippi.

The Quinlan-Hammond Hall of Honor is a state-of-the-art facility that represents the University of Southern Mississippi's commitment to honor our nation's heroes. The dedication ceremony will honor Joe Quinlan, USM alumnus and lead benefactor for the Hall of Honor, as well as U.S. Army Major General (Retired) Jeff Hammond, USM alumnus and former Golden Eagles Football Team Captain and Quarterback. These two gentlemen have earned this recognition for their service to the Golden Eagle community.

The University's Center for Military Veterans, Service Members and Families provides guidance and support to Student-Veterans in their academic and professional pursuits. Major General Jeff Hammond; who serves as the Center's Director, has led the University of Southern Mississippi to earn numerous prestigious recognitions, including the top Military Caring University across the State of Mississippi, designation as a Purple Heart Institution, and ranking No. 1 in the Southeast by Military Times in its ''Best for Vets: Colleges 2021 Rankings.''

The new Quinlan-Hammond Hall of Honor will provide more than 1,700 USM Military Students and Student-Veterans with a home of their own that is commensurate with the honor of which they are deserving.

Today is a special day. The dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony for the Quinlan-Hammond Hall of Honor symbolizes the University of Southern Mississippi's continued commitment and gratitude to our nation's heroes for their unwavering dedication to our country. As a veteran and USM alumnus, I want to thank the University's Administration, the USM Foundation, and the more than 150 USM alumni donors who made the construction of the new Quinlan-Hammond Hall of Honor possible for their commitment to honor those who serve. SMTTT.

Semper Fidelis.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT B. JACKSON OF NEW ORLEANS

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert B. Jackson, a public servant who has served the citizens of New Orleans with humility and professionalism for over forty-two years. He began as a Public Health Educator Supervisor with the New Orleans Department of Health from 1981 to 1988 where he served as a member of the department's grant writing team and the CPR instruction team.

I met Mr. Jackson in his most recent role as Director of Community and Intergovernmental

Relations at the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans serving our great City over the past thirty-three years. His stellar work benefitted directors Harold J. Gorman, Marcia A. St. Martin, Cedric Grant and Ghassan Karban, assuring the needs of their customers.

Under his leadership, the Sewerage and Water Board's Water Education Program for public and parochial schools in the City of New Orleans met EPA requirements for public information and community education, thereby providing compliance with Consent Decree requirements for that component until recent years.

During Mr. Jackson's tenure at the Board, they successfully sponsored the Water Help Run/Walk-a-thon from 1992 to 1996 to help support the Water Help Program for elderly and handicapped in our community

And in the days following Hurricane Katrina, Robert B. Jackson was instrumental in securing emergency fuel, satellite phones, supplies and equipment to help stabilize water operations during the emergency. Then, by the second week of September 2005, a temporary headquarters with forty-four offices was secured, furnished and operational in order to provide continuity of service for displaced customers and employees needing to connect with the Board.

There are only a few employees who can credit their career to include entrusted service under five Mayors—Sidney J. Barthelemy, Marc H. Morial, C. Ray Nagin, Mitchell Landrieu and LaToya Cantrell.

The entire New Orleans community is grateful to Mr. Jackson for his dedicated service, and I want to express my sincere congratulations to him ahead of his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING DR. BRENDA LEWIS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Brenda Lewis for her contributions to the Kern High School District and congratulate her on her retirement.

Dr. Lewis moved to Bakersfield, California, in August of 1988. She has spent the last 33 years working for the Kern High School District. Her illustrious career consisted of serving her community as a teacher, coach, mentor, and administrator. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Mediburu Magic Foundation and No Sister Left Behind and is a member of the Greater Harvest Christian Center Church where she serves as the president of the Deaconess Board.

Dr. Lewis has received several awards and recognitions for her excellent work. She received the CSUB Athletic Director's Appreciation Award, the Josephine Triplett Education & Leadership Award, the California Association of African American Superintendents & Administrators Award for Dedication & Devotion to Helping Students Achieve Excellence in Education, the MLK Committee's Sacrifices from the Heart Award, the Kern County Black Chamber of Commerce Certificate of Recognition, and was the Keynote Speaker for the 2020 Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast and Grand Marshal for the Bakersfield Black American History Parade.

Dr. Lewis was the first African American and the first woman in the history of the Kern High School District to serve as Assistant/Associate Superintendent. These are just two of her many great accomplishments from her time in the Kern High School District.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Dr. Brenda Lewis for her contributions to the Kern County community and wishing her the best in retirement.

RECOGNIZING QUEEN ELIZABETH II

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am grateful to recognize Queen Elizabeth's 70th year on the British throne. She has been Great Britain's head of state through 14 different American Presidents, meeting with 13 of them. I include in the RECORD, an article from The Washington Times of February 7, 2022 by Danica Kirka, celebrating Queen Elizabeth's' time on the throne. I appreciate Ambassador Karen Pierce for her service in Washington.

I particularly appreciate the Queen's service as I am a native of Charleston, South Carolina, which is the most British city in North America founded by British settlers in 1670. As Co-Chairman of the U.K. Caucus, I was grateful to have hosted the Minister for the Armed Forces, James Heappey, of the U.K. Parliament, at the Capitol Hill Club last week for dinner, as we remain united in supporting the independence of Ukraine.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II MARKS 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER RULE

LONDON.—As the United Kingdom marked the 70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's rule on Sunday, the queen looked to the future of the monarchy.

In remarks delivered in time for Sunday morning's front pages, the queen expressed a ''sincere wish'' that Prince Charles' wife, Camilla, should be known as ''Queen Consort'' when her son succeeds her as expected. With those words the monarch sought to answer once and for all questions about the status of Camilla, who was initially shunned by fans of the late Princess Diana, Charles' first wife.

''The queen is such a realist and, you know, she's got a business to run,'' historian Robert Lacey said. ''Well, they call it 'The Firm,' don't they? And this really brings Camilla into the firm properly now and for the future.''

It took years for many in Britain to forgive Charles, whose admitted infidelity and long-time links to Camilla torpedoed his marriage to Diana. The popular, glamorous princess died in a Paris car crash in 1997, five years after the couple separated in a messy public split. But the public mood has softened since Charles married Camilla Parker Bowles in 2005.

Now known as the Duchess of Cornwall, the 74–year-old Camilla has taken on roles at more than 100 charities, focusing on a wide range of issues including promoting literacy, supporting victims of domestic violence and helping the elderly.

Her down-to-earth style and sense of humor eventually won over many Britons. Her warmth softened Charles' stuffy image and made him appear more approachable, if not happier, as he cut ribbons, unveiled plaques and waited for his chance to reign.

Charles, 73, has long made it clear that he wants Camilla to be known as queen when he ultimately succeeds his mother on the throne. In his own message congratulating the queen on her long years of service, Charles thanked his mother for her support.

''We are deeply conscious of the honour represented by my mother's wish,'' they said. ''As we have sought together to serve and support Her Majesty and the people of our communities, my darling wife has been my own steadfast support throughout.''

The queen's comments are remarkable in that they brought back memories of one of the lowest moments of her 70 years on the throne. The royal family was widely criticized for its initial silence in the aftermath of Diana's death, with one national newspaper proclaiming ''Your People Are Suffering. Speak to Us Ma'am.''

In backing Charles and Camilla, the queen remembered the support she received from her husband, Prince Philip, who died last year after decades at her side, as well as the role her mother played as the wife of a king.

''I am fortunate to have had the steadfast and loving support of my family. I was blessed that, in Prince Philip, I had a partner willing to carry out the role of consort and unselfishly make the sacrifices that go with it,'' she wrote. ''It is a role I saw my own mother perform during my father's reign.''

''And when, in the fullness of time, my son Charles becomes King, I know you will give him and his wife Camilla the same support that you have given me.''

But for now, the queen remains at work.

On Sunday, Buckingham Palace released a photo of the monarch sitting in front of her official red dispatch box with government papers spread out before her.

The 95–year-old monarch is expected to spend the day at Sandringham, the country estate in Norfolk where her father, King George VI, died suddenly on Feb. 6, 1952, making her queen.

''It is a sad day and one that reminds her of the close relationship she had with him,'' said Lacey, the historical consultant to the Netflix series ''The Crown.''

''(Sunday) is a day when, by tradition, she likes to go back to Sandringham, the country roots of the family,'' he told The Associated Press. ''He liked to consider himself the Squire of Sandringham, the King of Britain, but he'd go out and walk the fields, shoot the game. That's what she remembers.''

While Sunday's anniversary is expected to be low-key, public celebrations of the monarch's platinum jubilee are scheduled for June, when the weather improves. The festivities will include a military parade, neighborhood parties and a competition to create a new dessert—a mini extravaganza that will take place over a special four-day weekend June 2–5.

The celebrations are meant to recognize the woman who became a symbol of stability for the U.K. as it navigated an age of uncertainty.

Britain's longest-serving monarch, the only sovereign most Britons have ever known, she has been a constant presence as Britain navigated the end of empire, the swinging '60s, the labor strife of the 1980s, international terrorism, Brexit and the COVID–19 pandemic.

In her message, the queen promised to keep working for the U.K. and the Commonwealth.

''As we mark this anniversary, it gives me pleasure to renew to you the pledge I gave in 1947 that my life will always be devoted to your service,'' she wrote.

REMEMBERING CONNER KURAHASHI

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. LIEU. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Mr. Conner Kurahashi, who passed away on January 22, 2022. A beloved member of California's 33rd Congressional District, he was known for his exemplary leadership skills, devotion to civic engagement, and commitment to community service.

Conner was born on October 7, 1999, in Torrance, CA to Brian Kurahashi and Gay Koga. From a young age, Conner had a sense of compassion and supported others in their times of need. As an elementary and middle school student, he volunteered his time to help set up school assemblies, and he served as student body president in his senior year at West High School. As student body president, he ably represented his classmates at Torrance City Council and Torrance Unified School District Board meetings.

Always thinking of others and planning ahead, Conner was committed to documenting the activities of his high school classmates; he had stashed photos and videos for their 10–year high school reunion. Even after graduation, he continued to document his sister's achievements on the girls' basketball team and the school's track and field meets. Conner had a hand in many campus activities: fundraising, taking photos, painting signs, and volunteering with the Kiwanis International organization. He was also a multi-sport athlete, playing volleyball and basketball, as well as running track and cross-country.

As a student at California Polytechnic University, Pomona, Conner helped plan basketball games and tournaments, dances, overnight ski trips, leadership conferences, and community service events with his fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi. He also served as Chief Communications Officer for the Nikkei Student Union. Conner was to graduate this spring with a bachelor's degree in urban and regional planning.

To friends and family, Conner will be remembered for his love of cooking, gardening, and even building a personal computer from scratch. Conner also loved basketball from an early age, playing for community youth teams and coaching them as he got older.

Conner is survived by his parents, Brian and Gay; sister, Bailey; and grandmother, Kazuko Kurahashi. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our thoughts and condolences to the Kurahashi family as they try to deal with this tragic loss. May Conner's memory live on in all those he touched through his life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LATE NATHAN WENDEL GRAY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nathan Gray, who lost his battle with childhood cancer on January 6, 2022. In his eight years of life, Nathan's courage, positivity, and bright smile inspired many, raised awareness for childhood cancer, and banded a community together, inspiring others to do good.

Nathan was born on July 16, 2013 to Jeffrey and Patricia Gray, and he was the beloved brother of ten year old Jeffrey and six year old Natalie. When Nathan was two years old, he was diagnosed with Wilms tumor, a rare form of kidney cancer. He fought cancer with the bravery of a superhero, enduring 221 doses of chemotherapy, 26 surgeries, 33 days of radiation, an oral inhibitor, and more than 100 blood platelet transfusions. Despite the challenges of his illness, Nathan attended St. Nicholas-St. Mary's School and enjoyed swimming, playing video games, and riding his bike.

Nathan's bravery and joy garnered local attention in August 2016 when the Facebook page "Nathan the Super Hero" was started by his family lo document his battle with cancer. Thousands of people have followed the page, sharing words of encouragement. celebrating the joyful moments, and offering comfort and support during the challenging ones. Nathan quickly became a local celebrity, inspiring members of the community with his infectious simile and relentless courage. The community rallied around Nathan. cheering him on and making him feel special. In February 2020, the Wilkes-Barre Area Wolfpack named him honorary team captain before they played their inaugural home game at Wilkes-Barre Memorial Stadium. In August 2020, Wilkes-Barre police and fire department vehicles paraded past his home while well-wishers delivered gifts, and, in December 2021, carolers visited Nathan to spread some Christmas cheer. Just last month, the Wilkes-Barre council unanimously voted to rename the Barney Farms Park in Nathan's honor.

Nathan's family's willingness to be open and share their son's experiences with Wilms tumor helped shed important light on the issue of childhood cancer and the need for more aggressive research and increased funding for prevention and cures—so that children like Nathan do not have to suffer.

I am honored to recognize the life and legacy of this brave young man. Nathan's memory will live on with his beloved family and friends and the large community that he inspired with his determination and positivity.

HONORING THE HONORABLE SHIRLEY ANITA ST. HILL CHISHOLM

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a trailblazer, icon, educator, and social activist, The Honorable Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm.

The daughter of immigrants, "Fighting Shirley" (as she became known) was the second African American in the New York Legislature (1964), the first African American woman to serve in the U.S. Congress (1968), and the first woman and African American to seek the nomination for the Presidency of the United States from one of the two major political parties (1972). During her impressive tenure in Congress, she introduced over 50 pieces of legislation and was a staunch advocate for education, expanding minimum wage standards, racial and gender equality, combating poverty, and ending the Vietnam War. She also co-founded the National Women's Political Caucus (1971) and became the first Black woman and the second woman to ever serve on the House Rules Committee. After she retired from Congress in 1983, she went on to teach at Mount Holyoke College and later lecture in Palm Coast, Florida.

Shirley Chisholm is known quite often for the quotes, "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." She was a formidable woman who fought against the odds (sexism and racial discrimination) during her career, inspired the future generation of leaders, and paved the way for others looking to pursue a career in politics and/or public service.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District and the distinguished members of the Congressional Black Caucus, in paying tribute to the life and legacy of The Honorable Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm.

JAMIE CONNELL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jamie Connell of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for her service to our country and wish her well on her retirement.

For more than 37 years, Jamie has served the constituents of the State of Colorado and other states with her public service. With most of the BLM public lands concentrated in Colorado's Western Slope, Jamie oversaw more than 8.3 million acres of public land and 27 million acres of federal mineral estate in Colorado, ranging from alpine tundra, colorful canyons and sagebrush steppe to mountains rising more than 14,000 feet above sea level. During her time in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington, and the District of Columbia, she tirelessly worked to improve and many areas of natural resource management. In her role, she has worked constructively with officials in the legislative and judicial branches of federal and state government as well as with industry and non-profit partners.

Jamie's hard work and dedication has been tremendous. I wish Jamie all the best in retirement and send gratitude for her service to our community, the State of Colorado, and the United States of America.

HONORING MAGGIE WADE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable hero, Maggie Wade.

Maggie has remained at the same station where she was first hired as a senior at Mississippi College. She is the 89th member of her extended family to attend Jackson State University. She is the oldest of seven children. Maggie was planning to go to law school; she wanted to be a corporate attorney. She never intended to be in television because everything that she learned was preparing her for a law career.

Maggie landed an interview with Randy Bell at Miss 103/WDJX. She was hired for the position as a weekend News Anchor/Radio Announcer. She was also in school full time at Mississippi College. While working at WDJX/Miss 103, a weekend weather opening became available at WLBT. She was introduced to Woodie Assaf at WLBT and went through the interview process for the position.

She received the job at WLBT, and this has been her employment since then. She fell in love with the media and the power of the media to bring change. Maggie gives all glory to God and speaks about how God had this planned for her. The first assignment for Maggie was at the University of Mississippi Medical Center inside the Children's Hospital. She was in love with the children and the support from her colleague.

Maggie's favorite quote is from Maya Angelou, ''People may forget what you did, they may forget what you said, but they'll never forget how you made them feel.'' She uses this quote because when you can do a story, when you can cover an event, no matter what that event is, and it touches the heart of people, you've done a good job.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life, legacy, and service of Ms. Maggie Wade.

RECOGNIZING THE BAKERSFIELD BLACK AMERICAN HISTORY PARADE COMMITTEE

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bakersfield Black American History Parade Committee on their 17th year organizing and facilitating this annual event.

The Bakersfield Black American History Parade was founded in 2005 by Gloria Patterson. The parade boosts local awareness and highlights the rich heritage and valuable contributions of African Americans. It provides a culturally inspired and community-wide celebration of the African American heritage. Local businesses and organizations interact with parade attendees and introduce them to resources available throughout Kern County and California. The committee also works with the Sickle Cell Disease Foundation and Black History 365 to help familiarize the community with services and resources.

In addition, the Bakersfield Black American History Parade Committee is committed to supporting educational institutions that raise awareness of the valuable contributions of the African American community.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Bakersfield Black American History Parade Committee and their service to the Bakersfield community.

HONORING DR. DUDLEY FLOOD

HON. DEBORAH K. ROSS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Ms. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and career of Dr. Dudley Flood, a recipient of North Carolina's highest civilian award, The North Carolina Award for Public Service, for his trailblazing leadership in desegregating our state's public schools.

Born in Winton, North Carolina and a graduate of North Carolina Central University, Dr. Flood began his career as an educator teaching grade school and eventually became a principal.

Following his teaching tenure, Dr. Flood joined the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, where he made a significant impact during his 21 years of dedicated service.

In the years following the landmark 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision, Dr. Flood and the late Gene Causby were tasked with facilitating the desegregation of schools in all 100 counties of North Carolina.

In 1969, Dr. Flood and Mr. Causby began to travel across the state to help desegregate North Carolina school systems. Beyond the assistance they provided in navigating this challenging process, it was the visual of these two men—one black, one white—working closely together that made a powerful impression on teachers and students alike.

Through his honorable work, Dr. Flood became a state hero and North Carolina became a model for school desegregation.

By working to ensure that North Carolina is a place where all students can learn irrespective of race, Dr. Flood helped to bring together starkly divided communities and effectively ushered in a new era for public education in our state.

Dr. Flood retired from public instruction in 1990. Since then, he has served as Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of School Administrators, taught as a visiting professor at multiple North Carolina colleges and universities, and continued to be an active community member.

Now 90 years old, Dr. Flood has led an incredible career as a champion for equitable education. Today his achievements can be seen in schools statewide, as children of all races are able to learn and play together and support each other's academic success.

As we begin celebrating Black History Month, I am honored to share his extraordinary legacy with this body. He enhanced the lives of hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians through his many achievements.

The people of our state are forever grateful for the remarkable life and lasting legacy of Dr. Flood.

POST OFFICE RENAMING THE ''LYNN C. WOOLSEY POST OFFICE BUILDING''

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I am proud to support a bill to honor my friend and fellow Californian, former Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, by designating the historic downtown post office in Petaluma the ''Lynn Woolsey Post Office Building.''

Congresswoman Woolsey is remembered in Congress as an unabashed advocate for a fairer, more equitable society. As the self-described ''first former welfare mom to serve in Congress,'' she was part of a historic wave of female leadership in Congress, blazing a trail for women for generations to come.

Congresswoman Woolsey served on the House Budget Committee, the Government Operations Committee, and the Education and Labor Committee, which helped cement her role as an effective leader in advancing education and welfare reform and ending gender discrimination. She was also a powerful leader in women's rights and equality. In fact, she played a critical role in the establishment of Women's History Month, an important tradition to honor the extraordinary women who paved the way for many of us today.

As co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Congresswoman Woolsey tirelessly fought to strengthen social safety net programs in an effort to elevate the voices of those most vulnerable.

Furthermore, Congresswoman Woolsey was, and still is, a courageous advocate for peace who opposed the Iraq War from the beginning, and who was once arrested at a demonstration in Washington, D.C., along with the late Congressman John Lewis, to call attention to the genocide in Darfur.

Congresswoman Woolsey has been, and continues to be, a progressive champion and I am incredibly pleased to honor her two-decade-long career of good public service by voting for the passage of this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMBATING IMPLICIT BIAS IN EDUCATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Combating Implicit Bias in Education Act. This bill would create a $30 million grant program for schools to train teachers, principals and other personnel on implicit bias with respect to actual or perceived race, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), disability, ethnicity and socioeconomic status.

In 2019, a report by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights found that students of color with disabilities received far more severe and frequent punishment than their white counterparts.

In 2017, the Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality released a report finding that people think of Black girls as more adult-like and less innocent compared to their white peers. This bias has been linked to harsher treatment of Black girls in schools. Students experiencing implicit bias and even outright discrimination face far greater expulsion and suspension rates, fueling the school-to-prison pipeline and widening the student achievement gap.

This bill aims to reduce the impact of implicit bias on school discipline and academic

achievement through research-based training for education personnel.

Under this bill, the Institute of Education Sciences under the Department of Education would be tasked with evaluating and reporting on the effectiveness of the training.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. JAMYE COLEMAN WILLIAMS

HON. SHONTEL M. BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Ms. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Jamye Coleman Williams, who passed away peacefully on January 19, 2022. I extend my sincerest condolences to her daughter, Donna, her extended family and friends, and all who knew and loved her.

Born in Louisville in 1918, Dr. Williams made remarkable contributions to academia, the church, and her community across her inspiring 103-year life. Her trailblazing legacy is a testament not only to the progress of America but also to the ability of bold individuals—specifically brave Black women—to drive the change they wish to seek.

Across her decades-long teaching career at HBCUs, including Ohio's own Wilberforce University, Dr. Williams made key contributions to rhetorical studies, a field long dominated by the study of white male orators. In fact, her dissertation on Thurgood Marshall's Arguments before the Supreme Court in the Public School Segregation controversy was published in 1959 by the Ohio State University, where she was earning her Ph.D.

In addition to her academic career, Dr. Williams was a lifelong member of the A.M.E. church. While remaining active in her local church, Dr. Williams served as a board member of the National Council of Churches and later as editor of The A.M.E. Church Review, the oldest African American literary journal. She also helped to break glass ceilings by supporting Vashti McKenzie's election as the first female A.M.E. bishop.

A tireless community activist, Dr. Williams moved from early involvement in the civil rights movement to later serving as a member of the NAACP's Executive Committee. In 1999, she received the organization's Presidential Award for her critical contributions.

Dr. Williams' legacy of service, activism and education will live on through the students, colleagues and countless individuals she touched. Her commitment to doing her part to advance justice and equality for women and people of color serves as a shining example for us all.

Today, may we honor the memory of Dr. Jamye Coleman Williams, a loving wife, an impactful educator, a committed community activist, and a lifelong church leader.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I missed a Previous Question vote on January 11.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 2.

HONORING UNITED STATES AIR FORCE CAPTAIN SALEHA JABEEN

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary work of U.S. Air Force Captain Saleha Jabeen. Captain Jabeen is the only woman Imam in the United States Air Force, and she has been working diligently as a cultural advisor and chaplain as part of Operation Allies Welcome at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico.

Brigadier General Dan Gabrielli of the Minnesota National Guard has been the commanding officer at Holloman since August of last year, and I had the enormous privilege of being briefed by General Gabrielli, his leadership team, and Captain Jabeen on the incredible effort they've been engaged in to ensure that we live up to our promise to the Afghan refugees under their care.

Madam Speaker, Captain Jabeen represents the very best of the generous spirit of the American people. Her infectious charisma, boundless energy, deep cultural understanding, and tireless dedication to helping Afghan refugees acclimate to their new home have made her indispensable to Operation Allies Welcome. We are all fortunate to have had her in this position, ensuring that we have lived up to our cherished values of hospitality and providing safe haven to those in need.

As a refugee myself, I am intensely aware of the importance of creating a sense of community during the disorienting process of resettlement. Captain Jabeen has been essential in creating that sense of community at Holloman. I want to express my deep admiration and profound gratitude for her dedication to public service, for the support she has given to the Guardsmen and women from my district who have also been dedicating themselves to this crucial mission, and, most importantly, for the many lives she has changed permanently for the better.

HONORING DIANE HORN AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Ms. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Diane Horn, a Volunteer Income Tax Assistant with Lutheran Services of Iowa, as our Iowan of the Week.

As we enter a new tax filing season, I can't help but to think of all the Iowans out there who are looking for help getting their taxes filed. Every day, I hear first-hand accounts of the challenges that taxpayers in Iowa are facing. While many of the challenges they're facing arise after filing their returns, many Iowans still explain to me that their problems could have been avoided had they not had issues with filing in the first place. That is why I am so proud to honor Diane Horn today.

Diane volunteers with Lutheran Services of Iowa (LSI) in their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. She started volunteering about six years ago with another organization in Iowa, greeting folks who were coming in for service appointments. Diane previously held a career as an IT Manager, but in her second year of volunteering, she decided to learn more about tax preparation. Diane took classes and eventually took the tests required through the IRS to earn her certification.

Diane then started volunteering with LSI, where she started helping folks file their taxes. She explained how rewarding this experience is, and how she genuinely feels the impact of the help she is providing to those in need. Diane describes everyone she works with as being so grateful. Many of the people who come to her are refugees or immigrants, and many of them cannot speak and/or read English.

The COVID–19 pandemic has impacted every single industry in our nation's economy, and it also had an impact on the work that LSI could carry out. Diane explained that working remotely came with its own unique challenges, but most of all, she missed being able to see and chat with everyone who made appointments with her. She loves hearing everyone's story, no matter the circumstances. It makes the work she does that much more gratifying knowing that she is truly making a difference for those who are in need.

The work Diane does is so incredibly vital to communities across Iowa's third district. The tax process is one that many Americans feel is complicated and difficult to fully understand. Diane helps ease those concerns and anxieties. Her dedication to helping those in need is commendable, and it is why I am so honored to name Diane Horn Iowan of the Week.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend the service, dedication, and sacrifice of the members of the 60th Air Mobility Wing, the 349th Air Mobility Wing, the 621st Contingency Response Wing, and their partner agencies at Travis Air Force Base, which I have the distinct privilege of representing as part of California's Third Congressional District. They exemplify the best of America, and their tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

For eighty years, Travis Air Force Base has stood as a pillar of strength, projecting peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and providing support to American troops around the world. This mission is only accomplished

thanks to the blood, sweat, and fortitude of the 18,000 airmen and their families that maintain the highest levels of readiness and capability. Every single day this all-volunteer force provides essential aerial refueling, airlift operations, aeromedical evacuation, highly specialized rapid response contingency operations capabilities, and unmatched support to produce and execute rapid global mobility in support of our national defense.

Last year alone the men and women of Travis Air Force Base met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. Team Travis aircrews evacuated 12,962 Afghans while managing security and operations at the airport in Kabul.

The valor and heroism displayed by the men and women of Travis was imitable and worthy of recognition. Last month, I spoke with Captain Kayleigh Migalesdi, who helped evacuate 117 orphan children from the region during Operation Allies Refuge. She spoke about how she would have been at the Abbey Gate the moment a suicide bomber killed 13 Americans had it not been for an orphaned child who needed her assistance elsewhere on base. With tears in her eyes, she told me that she owed her life to that child, who she later helped reach safety and begin a new life. Capt. Migalesdi's story is just one of the many stories I heard that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base. Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by these men and women. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. I am grateful every day that I have the opportunity to represent such an upstanding community in Congress.

This total force effort of active and reserve airmen directly enabled the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known world history, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. Simply put, Travis Air Force Base is the very best our Nation has to offer. Its strategic importance stands as a beacon of hope to our allies and a stern reminder of American resolve to our enemies. On behalf of a grateful Nation and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to thank the men and women of Travis Air Force Base and express my sincere gratitude for their sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great Nation.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise today to celebrate Black History Month and its 2022 theme—Black Health and Wellness.

This year's theme recognizes the achievements and initiatives of African Americans in healthcare while simultaneously highlighting the disparities that still exist in our country. As we reflect on the past, we must examine how race and racism have created additional barriers for African American health outcomes.

Specific to Northwest Indiana, I would like to take a moment to recognize and commemorate the notable achievements of Dr. Clarence Boone, a well-known obstetrician-gynecologist and leader in our region's medical community.

Dr. Boone was born and raised in Gary, Indiana. He graduated from Froebel High School in Gary in 1949 and went on to attend Indiana University—where he earned a degree in anatomy and physiology. He then made history as one of five Black students enrolled at the Indiana University School of Medicine in 1952.

After medical school, Dr. Boone returned to his hometown in Gary and spent his career advocating for African Americans and women in the medical field. He served as President of the Medical Staff of Methodist Hospital and as Medical Director for Planned Parenthood of Northwest Indiana. Dr. Boone is remembered as a community mentor who was committed to providing medical service to individuals who would not otherwise have access to it.

While we have made progress to improve access to affordable health care options, there still is a long way to go. Generations of strict geographical segregation have left many hospitals and medical care centers that continue to serve African American communities under-resourced and under-staffed.

Evident prior to the COVID–19 pandemic, and certainly emphasized by it, these shortages have resulted in African Americans being more susceptible to illness, less likely to receive adequate treatment, and placed further at-risk for complications.

While I appreciate the milestones reached through the passage of the Affordable Care Act, more must be done to improve access to affordable health care and decrease the gap in health-related outcomes for African Americans.

With this year's celebration of Black History Month, let us honor Dr. Boone from Gary and all African American scholars and medical professionals who have played such a monumental role with their contributions to health care in the state of Indiana and throughout our country, and let us recommit to ending health disparities for African Americans that still exist today.

RECOGNIZING THE MINTER FIELD AIR MUSEUM

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Minter Field Air Museum on the 80th anniversary of the dedication of Minter Field Army Air Corps Base.

Minter Field began operations in June of 1941. By 1942, the base had become one of the largest training bases on the west coast. Nearly 12,000 pilots received basic training and over 7,000 personnel manned the field during its years of operation. During World War II, more than 11,000 Army Air Corps Cadets graduated from Minter Field. These cadets went on to fly around the globe and in all theaters of the war.

On February 7, 1942, the base was named in honor of First Lieutenant Hugh C. Minter, a World War I veteran that lost his life in a collision over March Field in July 1932.

Minter Field Air Museum is located in the base's original fire station. The Museum has compiled a database of over 11,500 names of cadets and staff, as well as a DVD library of over 900 hours of military and aviation videos. Their preservation efforts will allow Kern County to continue to honor the veterans who trained at Minter Field Army Air Corps Base for many years to come.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Minter Field Air Museum for its dedication to preserving the history of Minter Field and Kern County aviation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2022 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 15

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert Phillip Storch, of the District of Columbia, to be Inspector General, Lester Martinez-Lopez, of Florida, and Christopher Joseph Lowman, of Virginia, both to be an Assistant Secretary, and Peter J. Beshar, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force, all of the Department of Defense.

SD–G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the President's Working Group on Financial Markets report on stablecoins.

SD–538

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine protecting youth mental health, focusing on identifying and addressing barriers to care.

WEBEX

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine supporting quality workforce development opportunities and innovation to address barriers to employment.

SH–216

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Business meeting to consider S. 1617, to modify the requirements for the Administrator of the Small Business Administration relating to declaring a disaster in a rural area, S. 1621, to reauthorize and limit the pre-disaster mitigation program of the Small Business Administration, S. 2042, to reauthorize the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise, and S. 2521, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish an SBIC Working Group.
SR–428A

3 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Tourism, Trade, and Export Promotion
To hold hearings to examine enhancing U.S. trade and promoting American exports to create jobs.
SR–253

FEBRUARY 16

10 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's Renewable Fuel Standard program, focusing on challenges and opportunities.
SD–106

Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation
To hold hearings to examine the Western Balkans, focusing on supporting peace and prosperity.
SD–G50/VTC

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.
SD–226

2 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine reinvigorating U.S.-Colombia relations.
SD–G50/VTC

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 3123, to amend the Siletz Reservation Act to address the hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, S. 3126, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to address the hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community, S. 3273, to take certain land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, and S. 3381, to require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to process and complete all mortgage packages associated with residential and business mortgages on Indian land by certain deadlines.
SD–628

FEBRUARY 17

10:15 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the gaps in America's biosecurity preparedness.
SD–342/VTC

MARCH 2

10 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold an oversight hearing to examine implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act by the Department of Transportation.
SD–106

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S581–S617

Measures Introduced: Twenty bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3604–3623, and S. Res. 508–509. **Pages S612–613**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled "National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2019". (S. Rept. No. 117–69) **Page S612**

Measures Passed:

Honoring the Victims of the Attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School: Senate agreed to S. Res. 508, honoring the memories of the victims of the senseless attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14, 2018. **Pages S597–98**

Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, February 10, 2022, Senate begin consideration of H.R. 4445, to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration of disputes involving sexual assault and sexual harassment; that the time until 11 a.m., be equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees; and that at 11 a.m., Senate vote on passage of the bill, with no intervening action or debate. **Page S609**

Motion to Discharge Bagenstos Nomination: By 48 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 51), Senate agreed to the motion to discharge the nomination of Samuel R. Bagenstos, of Michigan, to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services, from the Committee on Finance. Subsequently, the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 27, relative to Senate procedure in the 117th Congress. **Page S609**

Vekich Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that upon disposition of H.R. 4445, to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration of disputes involving sexual assault and sexual harassment, Senate proceed to Executive Session and resume consideration of the nomination of Max Vekich, of Washington, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, and at 11:45 a.m., on Thursday, February 10, 2022, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon, and if cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate vote on confirmation on the nomination at 1:45 p.m. **Page S609**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 72 yeas to 24 nays (Vote No. EX. 43), Scott A. Nathan, of Massachusetts, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation. **Page S587**

By 93 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. EX. 45), Douglas R. Bush, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army. **Pages S581–87, S587–94**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 95 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. EX. 44), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S587**

By 79 yeas to 17 nays (Vote No. EX. 46), John Patrick Coffey, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy. **Page S594**

By 75 yeas to 21 nays (Vote No. EX. 47), Alexandra Baker, of New Jersey, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense. **Page S608**

By 56 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 48), Reta Jo Lewis, of Georgia, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2025. **Page S608**

By 61 yeas to 35 nays (Vote No. EX. 49), Leonard Philip Stark, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit. **Pages S608–09**

By 61 yeas to 33 nays (Vote No. EX. 50), Neil Harvey MacBride, of Virginia, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury. **Pages S596–97, S598–S607, S609**

Nomination Discharged: The following nomination were discharged from further committee consideration and placed on the Executive Calendar:

Samuel R. Bagenstos, of Michigan, to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human

Services, which was sent to the Senate on August 10, 2021, from the Senate Committee on Finance.

Page S616

Messages from the House: **Pages S611–12**

Measures Referred: **Page S612**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S581, S612**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S612**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S612**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S613**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S613–16**

Additional Statements: **Pages S610–11**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S616**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S616**

Record Votes: Nine record votes were taken today. (Total—51) **Pages S587, S593–94, S608–09**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:56 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 10, 2022. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S616.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DIGITAL ASSETS

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine digital assets, focusing on risks, regulation, and innovation, after receiving testimony from Rostin Behnam, Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission; Sandra Ro, Global Blockchain Business Council, and Perianne Boring, Chamber of Digital Commerce, both of Washington, D.C.; Sam Bankman-Fried, FTX, Chicago, Illinois; and Kevin Werbach, University of Pennsylvania Wharton School, Philadelphia.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection concluded a hearing to examine the role that community development financial institutions and minority depository institutions serve in supporting communities, including S. 1368, to make housing more affordable, after receiving testimony from Robert James II, National Bankers Association, Savannah, Georgia; Jeanne Kucey, JetStream Federal Credit Union, Miami Lakes, Florida, on behalf of the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions; and Joel Griffith, The Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Budget: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Director, and Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Director, both of the Office of Management and Budget.

NOMINATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Gigi B. Sohn, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission, after the nominee testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

NASA

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Space and Science concluded a hearing to examine NASA accountability and oversight, after receiving testimony from James Free, Associate Administrator, Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate, James Reuter, Associate Administrator, Space Technology Mission Directorate, Thomas Zurbuchen, Associate Administrator, Science Mission Directorate, all of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; W. William Russell, Director, Contracting and National Security Acquisitions, Government Accountability Office; and Scott Pace, George Washington University Space Policy Institute, Washington, D.C.

GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks concluded a hearing to examine the implementation of the Great American Outdoors Act, after receiving testimony from Shannon A. Estenoz, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks; and Christopher French, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

NUCLEAR ENERGY LEGISLATION

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 2373, to reestablish United States global leadership in nuclear energy, revitalize domestic nuclear energy supply chain infrastructure, support the licensing of advanced nuclear technologies, and improve the regulation of nuclear energy, and S. 1290, to assist communities affected by stranded nuclear waste, after receiving testimony from David A. Knabel, City of Zion, Zion, Illinois; Armond Cohen, Clean Air Task Force, Boston, Massachusetts; and Maria Korsnick, Nuclear Energy Institute, and Jeremy Harrell, ClearPath Action, on behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Industry Council, both of Washington, D.C.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Robert Michael Gordon, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary, January Contreras, of Arizona, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, and Rebecca E. Jones Gaston, of Oregon, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, all of the Department of Health and Human Services, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

IRAN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee received a closed briefing on Iran, focusing on an update on Vienna discussions, from Robert Malley, Special Envoy for Iran, Department of State; Brett H. McGurk, Deputy Assistant to the President and Middle East and North Africa Coordinator, National Security Council; and a briefer from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

AFGHANISTAN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism concluded a hearing to examine Afghanistan, focusing on the humanitarian crisis and U.S. response, after receiving testimony from David Miliband, International Rescue Committee, New York, New York; and Graeme Smith, International Crisis Group, Brussels, Belgium.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Director, and Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Director, both of the Office of Management and Budget, and Dimitri Kusnezov, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security.

DRONE STRIKES

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine "targeted killing" and the rule of law, focusing on the legal and human costs of 20 years of United States drone strikes, after receiving testimony from General John P. Jumper (Ret.), former Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Department of Defense; Hina Shamsi, American Civil Liberties Union, New York, New York; Radhya al-Mutawakel, Mwatana for Human Rights, Sana'a, Yemen; and Stephen Pomper, International Crisis Group, and Nathan A. Sales, Fillmore Global Strategies LLC, both of Washington, D.C.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 10 public bills, H.R. 6653–6702; and 10 resolutions, H. Res. 915–924 were introduced. **Pages H1111–14**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H1116**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Torres (NY) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1077**

Global Respect Act: The House passed H.R. 3485, to impose sanctions on foreign persons responsible for violations of internationally recognized human rights against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) individuals, by a yea-and-nay vote of 227 yeas to 206 nays, Roll No. 43. **Pages H1079–87**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–30 shall be considered as adopted, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Foreign Affairs now printed in the bill. **Pages H1079–80**

Agreed to:

Cicilline en bloc amendment No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in part A of H. Rept. 117–241: Crist (No. 1) that authorizes the President to exempt certain immediate family members who themselves face persecution from possible inadmissibility or revocation of visas; Gottheimer (No. 2) that requires a study from the Secretary of State examining risks to LGBTQI individuals at a regional bureau level; Harder (No. 3) that prevents any provisions of the bill from imposing sanctions or taking actions against any foreign individual based

solely upon religious belief; Manning (No. 4) that adds torture to the list of violations of human rights for which the President may impose sanctions; Porter (No. 5) that requires a report to Congress on individuals responsible for violations of human rights against LGBTQI people be submitted in an unclassified form and published on a publicly available State Department website, and the report may include a classified annex; and Williams (No. 6) that commissions a report on how the Department of State can coordinate internationally to proactively prevent human rights violations against individuals based on actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex characteristics (by a yea-and-nay vote of 223 yeas to 207 nays, Roll No. 42). **Pages H1084–86**

H. Res. 900, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3485), (H.R. 4445), and (H.R. 4521) was agreed to Wednesday, February 2nd.

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Tuesday, February 1st.

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 223 West Chalan Santo Papa in Hagatna, Guam, as the "Atanasio Taitano Perez Post Office": H.R. 3539, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 223 West Chalan Santo Papa in Hagatna, Guam, as the "Atanasio Taitano Perez Post Office", by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 417 yeas to 1 nay with two answering "present", Roll No. 44.

Pages H1087–88

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House failed to agree to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Tuesday, February 1st.

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 4th Street in Petaluma, California, as the "Lynn C. Woolsey Post Office Building": H.R. 2842, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 4th Street in Petaluma, California, as the "Lynn C. Woolsey Post Office Building", by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 245 yeas to 167 nays with one answering "present", Roll No. 45. **Pages H1088–89**

Call of the Private Calendar: Agreed by unanimous consent that the call of the Private Calendar be dispensed with on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. **Page H1111**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1086, H1087, H1087–88, and H1088–89.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee concluded a markup on H. Res. 896, the "Condemning the Burmese military for perpetrating gross violations of human rights as part of its brutal campaign to suppress the democratic aspirations of the people of Burma, a year after the coup d'état on February 1, 2021"; H.R. 4821, the "Combatting the Persecution of Christians in China Act"; H.R. 6600, the "Ethiopia Stabilization, Peace, and Democracy Act"; H. Res. 892, calling on the Government of the Republic of Rwanda to release Paul Rusesabagina on humanitarian grounds; H. Res. 895, strongly condemning the abuses committed in Cameroon's Anglophone regions by the Government of Cameroon security forces and armed group; H. Res. 907, reaffirming our commitment to support progress toward transparency, accountable institutions, and other tenets of good governance in the Republic of Liberia as it approaches the Bicentennial of the Arrival of the First Free Black Americans to Providence Island, Liberia; and H.R. 6552, the "Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022". H.R. 6600, H.R. 4821, and H. Res. 895 were ordered reported, as amended. H. Res. 892, H. Res. 907, H.R. 6552, and H. Res. 896 were ordered reported, without amendment.

REVITALIZING WMATA: GETTING TO A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled "Revitalizing WMATA: Getting to a Culture of Excellence". Testimony was heard from Geoffrey Cherrington, Inspector General, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; David L. Mayer, Chief Executive Officer, Washington Metrorail Safety Commission; Paul C. Seder, Board Chair, Board of Directors, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; Paul J. Wiedefeld, General Manager, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; and a public witness.

IT INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION: ADDRESSING ONGOING CHALLENGES AND THE PATH FORWARD

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Technology Modernization; and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, joint hearing entitled "IT Infrastructure Modernization: Addressing Ongoing Challenges and the Path Forward". Testimony was

heard from Kurt DelBene, Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology and Chief Information Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs.

CONNECTING AMERICANS TO PROSPERITY: HOW INFRASTRUCTURE CAN BOLSTER INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth: Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Connecting Americans to Prosperity: How Infrastructure can Bolster Inclusive Economic Growth''. Testimony was heard from Eileen Higgins, Commissioner, District 5, Miami-Dade County, Florida; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

BUILDING A BETTER LABOR MARKET

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine building a better labor market, focusing on empowering older workers for a stronger economy, after receiving testimony from Teresa Ghilarducci, The New School for Social Research, New York, New York; and Monique Morrissey, Economic Policy Institute, Jocelyn Frye, National Partnership for Women and Families, and Andrew G. Biggs, American Enterprise Institute, all of Washington, D.C.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine how institutional landlords are changing the housing market, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the opportunities and challenges in using clean hydrogen in the transportation, utility, industrial, commercial, and residential sectors, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider the nominations of Glenna Laureen Wright-Gallo, of Nevada, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, Christopher John Williamson, of West Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health, Mary Lucille Jordan, of Maryland, and Timothy Baker, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, and other pending calendar business, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, to hold hearings to examine the health care workforce shortage, focusing on recruiting, revitalizing and diversifying, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 3538, to establish a National Commission on Online Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention, S. 3103, to amend title 18, United States Code, to eliminate the statute of limitations for the filing of a civil claim for any person who, while a minor, was a victim of a violation of section 1589, 1590, 1591, 2241(c), 2242, 2243, 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2260, 2421, 2422, or 2423 of such title, and the nominations of Andre B. Mathis, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Jessica G. L. Clarke, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Hector Gonzalez, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Fred W. Slaughter, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Andrew Fois, of the District of Columbia, to be Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, and Marisa T. Darden, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, Delia L. Smith, to be United States Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands, Eddie M. Frizell, to be United States Marshal for the District of Minnesota, and LaDon A. Reynolds, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Illinois, all of the Department of Justice, 9 a.m., SH–216.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine improving care experiences for people with both Medicare and Medicaid, 9:30 a.m., SD–562.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, February 10

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 4445, Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act, and vote on passage of the bill at 11 a.m.

Following disposition of H.R. 4445, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Max Vekich, of Washington, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination at 11:45 a.m. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 1:45 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11 a.m., Friday, February 11

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 11 a.m.

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