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House of Representatives

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. SEWELL).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 15, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TERRI A. SEWELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

RECOGNIZING DR. NGOZI EZIKE

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

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ngozi Ezike, a dedicated public servant whose last day as director of the Illinois Department of Public Health was yesterday.

For the past 3 years, Dr. Ezike worked tirelessly to protect the health and well-being of the people of Illinois, including leading our State's public

health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In spite of historic challenges, she remained dedicated to her job and making sure that the people of Illinois always had the most accurate information about how to best protect themselves and their families.

Amid an onslaught of social media misinformation and conspiracy theories, Dr. Ezike helped make sure that Illinois' COVID response operated in reality and was grounded in science. She always made sure that the scientists and public health experts were heard by our elected officials.

Dr. Ezike is a trailblazer—not only because she was Illinois' first Black woman to serve as the director of the department of public health but because she was called to lead a State-wide public health response to an unprecedented pandemic, and she did not blink.

There is no doubt that her work helped save lives in Illinois. So on behalf of the people of our State, I thank Dr. Ezike for her service, and I wish her nothing but the best in whatever she decides to do next.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS: CLEAN DRINKING WATER

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, for decades the city of Joliet has lived under the threat of unsafe drinking water from lead pipes used in service lines to individual homes. In recent years, the lowering of the water tables has threatened even the long-term availability of drinking water to Joliet, and that is why I am so proud that the Federal omnibus recently passed by Congress included \$3.5 million for the city of Joliet to help tap into Lake Michigan as the primary source of drinking water and to accelerate the replacement of lead service lines, thereby helping to secure clean and safe drinking water for the entire Joliet community for decades to come.

Altogether, our office secured nearly \$19 million for very worthwhile projects in Illinois' 11th District that

will benefit our entire community, and this will be taxpayer money well spent.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS: STEPPING STONES

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, for decades substance abuse disorder has torn apart families in Will County and around the country. Often families with young children had nowhere to turn to. That is why I am so proud that the Federal omnibus recently passed by Congress included \$2 million for Stepping Stones—a nonprofit that provides clinical services and recovery support for those seeking treatment for substance use disorders so that they can build new housing units for women seeking treatment.

Altogether, our office secured nearly \$19 million for very worthwhile projects in Illinois' 11th District that will benefit our entire community, and this will be taxpayer money well spent.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, for decades, Will County has grappled with issues of affordable housing, an issue that has become more and more important in communities large and small across our country.

That is why I am so proud that the Federal omnibus recently passed by Congress included \$3 million for the Housing Authority of Joliet to help turn a shuttered golf course into quality, affordable housing for hardworking families who deserve access to the dream of homeownership.

Altogether, our office secured nearly \$19 million for very worthwhile projects in Illinois' 11th District that will benefit our entire community, and this will be taxpayer money well spent.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS: THE OLD JOLIET PRISON

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, for decades the Old Joliet Prison has served as the backdrop of Hollywood movies like "The Blues Brothers" and hit TV shows like "Prison Break." But years of neglect have left the site unsafe and closed to visitors.

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

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



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That is why I am so proud that the Federal omnibus recently passed by Congress included \$3 million for the Joliet Area Historical Museum so that they can rehabilitate the site of the Old Joliet Prison and make it safe for visitors once again and enhance its potential as a tourist attraction. This project is shovel-ready and will help create and sustain much-needed construction jobs while restoring a historically and culturally significant site in an economically challenged part of the city.

Altogether, our office secured nearly \$19 million for very worthwhile projects in Illinois' 11th District that will benefit our entire community, and this will be taxpayer money well spent.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS: AURORA QUAD COUNTY
URBAN LEAGUE

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, for decades, America has faced a deficit of job training opportunities from underserved and underrepresented communities, and that is why I am so proud that the Federal omnibus recently passed by Congress included \$425,000 for the Aurora Quad County Urban League so that they can launch a youth careers program in Aurora to connect young people with jobs and apprenticeship opportunities in construction, transportation, distribution of logistics, and all fields facing an increase in and need for Federally trained workers.

RUSSIA NEGOTIATES THE U.S.- IRAN DEAL

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

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, before I begin today's remarks, I will take a moment to acknowledge the devastating news of the two confirmed American deaths in Ukraine: Brent Renaud, an American journalist working with a documentary film team who was fatally shot over the weekend; and FOX News network just confirmed moments ago one of their cameramen, Pierre Zakrzewski, was killed while on assignment in Ukraine.

An entire nation grieves with their families as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.

We also continue to pray for the recovery of FOX News correspondent, Benjamin Hall, who suffered serious injuries while covering the war.

Now, Madam Speaker, on Sunday, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard fired dozens of missiles near the U.S. consulate in Iraq. This brazen attack on a civilian area by the terrorist arm of the Iranian regime was unjustified, illegal, and dangerous.

Madam Speaker, the President of the United States has not said one word about these missiles from Iran—which has bragged about it—towards the U.S. consulate in Iraq. Iran continues to wage an aggressive terror campaign against America and our allies.

Remember, Madam Speaker, Iran's Parliament has chanted "death to

America" and the commander in chief of the Revolutionary Guard has vowed to set ablaze Israel. I would think with missiles being shot at Americans that the Secretary of State and—at the very least—the President of the United States would say and stand against this. Yet, the Biden administration is quietly rushing ahead with a bad agreement that would give Iran—the world's leading state sponsor of terror—nuclear weapons.

President Biden has kept Congress and the American people in the dark about this dangerous deal which is illegal and goes against legislation this body has passed. Madam Speaker, when you look at the troubling terms, it is easily seen why they want to keep us and America in the dark.

It would lift our most significant terrorism and missile sanctions and send Iran hundreds of billions of dollars. That means that Iran would see the windfall of cash to continue their terror campaign they had engaged in on Sunday and every day.

This agreement is entirely on Iran's terms.

But what is even worse is: Who is negotiating it?

While the world looks at the evil of Putin and Russia killing innocent people and murdering throughout Ukraine, it is this administration that has Russia negotiating with Iran on America's behalf.

Now, what does the Russian Ambassador say?

He says that the deal that the Biden administration is negotiating gives Iran much more than it could expect, much more. And in return for making significant concessions, we get nothing: no serious system to check if the Iranian regime is cheating on the terms of the deal; no safeguards against Iranian terrorism like we saw on Sunday targeting Americans; no leverage over the expanded trade between Russia, China, and Iran; and nothing to help the Iranian people.

This reported agreement is even worse than the Obama Iran deal of 2015. Under the terms of this deal, Iran would be a nuclear state in the blink of an eye. It would have enough uranium to create nuclear bombs which would endanger America, Israel, and the entire world.

This is not only unthinkable, it is unacceptable. We should not allow the rogue Iranian regime to have nuclear weapons. The Biden administration has made a dangerous mistake by negotiating with the Iranian regime.

They made terrible mistakes time and again, how they pulled out of Afghanistan, welcomed a pipeline to Putin, and said in a press conference that if Putin just takes part of Ukraine, it wouldn't be so bad.

And now Iran sends weapons—missiles—at Americans, and not one word is said but a negotiation continues using Russia as our negotiator. This Biden administration has made a dangerous mistake.

Furthermore, President Biden has compounded his mistake by relying on Russia to negotiate on our behalf and reportedly has given them written guarantees that the deal would protect their trade with Tehran.

Think about that: We are making major concessions on Russian trade with Iran at the very moment we are sanctioning Russia for mercilessly killing Ukrainians. That is outrageous and just plain stupid.

Has President Biden learned nothing?

Our objective is to isolate Putin, not empower him. The Russians should not be responsible for anything—especially not a major deal—and should never speak on behalf of Americans.

Madam Speaker, I urge President Biden to make the right choice: Walk away. Because knowing when to walk away from the negotiating table is just as important as knowing when to sit down.

It is also very important to know when to stand up. If a terrorist country sends weapons and missiles to attack Americans and you stay silent, that is the wrong answer, the wrong response, and leads to a dangerous future.

Stand up for America, stand up for freedom, stand up for what is right, and walk away from this agreement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, we all anticipate and await the presentation from an international hero. Hearing from President Zelensky tomorrow is exactly what this Congress and what the Nation needs to hear. I believe that we will come out united. Certainly, our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Ukraine and the bravery of President Zelensky.

Madam Speaker, I am here to also talk about another urgency here at home. The fierce urgency of now, as Martin Luther King said, would apply to seniors all across our country. We are all painfully aware of the results of the pandemic with more than 900,000 Americans having perished and over 660,000 of them over the age of 65.

Madam Speaker, you know firsthand as well because you led Chairman NEAL's racial equity initiative that also underscored this very group of people—seniors and especially people of color—who have been impacted the most.

As John Lewis said: This is the next major civil rights issue. And if Black Lives Matter and is more than just a slogan, it is long overdue for the Congress of the United States to take action.

I commend you, Madam Speaker, for your efforts in making sure that we

bring to the American public's attention this inequity that exists. Imagine more than 5 million Americans in the wealthiest nation on the face of the Earth living in poverty, millions of whom have paid all their lives into a Social Security system that gives them a below poverty-level check.

□ 1215

The last time Congress did anything to enhance Social Security was in 1971. Richard Nixon was the President, and a gallon of milk cost 72 cents.

A lot has transpired since then, especially as it relates to our seniors. The people who are impacted the most, along with COVID, are the people who are on fixed incomes. They are impacted by inflation as well. That is why it is so vitally important, with more than 10,000 baby boomers a day becoming eligible for Social Security, that Congress finally acts.

Help is on the way. Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust will do just that and make sure that it provides across-the-board relief and makes sure that no one can retire into poverty and raises the new floor for those who are in desperate need now. We can no longer afford to kick the can down the road. The pandemic has only further underscored the problem that our seniors face.

Madam Speaker, as you know, it is not just our seniors. When we look at veterans, more veterans rely on Social Security disability than they do on the VA. When we look at spousal and dependent coverage and the need for children to stay on their policies and be able to be eligible as Social Security recipients, how we have treated widows and widowers, all needs to be addressed.

Who is impacted the most by this? Women. And specifically women of color that are most in need, because of the jobs they held in society and because they were primarily caregivers and spent more time at home. It is they who are living longer and also need assistance from the United States Congress.

It is long overdue for us to act. It has been more than 50 years since Congress has done anything. This is not something the President can do with an executive order or that is going to be adjudicated by the courts. This can only happen if Congress takes action.

I am proud of the efforts of Chairman NEAL and the Ways and Means Committee as we move toward a markup of Social Security and to bring this to the floor and then to vote on it in the Senate.

THE INFLATION CRISIS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, we are facing multiple crises in our country. Inflation is surging,

gasoline prices are skyrocketing, and the Biden administration is still refusing to act.

In Adams County, Pennsylvania, a gallon of gas costs \$4.43. That is \$1.40 more than it did just 1 year ago.

Rural Americans should not be forced to pay the price for President Biden's failure to drill American oil, a failure that has led to the highest gas prices in our Nation's history.

In a recent survey that I conducted in my weekly newsletter, over 3,000 of my constituents responded, and 96 percent of them reported that the rising cost of goods has affected their individual budgets.

It is time for President Biden to take responsibility for what his reckless spending has done to our country. Because of this reckless spending, Americans are forced to make difficult choices about what they can afford to buy, about what medications they can afford, and about which bills they are able to pay each month.

It is time for President Biden to care more about the families in Pennsylvania, more about the families in America, than he does about the Green New Deal. It is time to drill American oil. It is time to utilize and expand Pennsylvania's wonderful energy resources. It is time to use the resources that are under the feet of my constituents: the coal, the natural gas, and the Marcellus shale.

Biden welcomed a pipeline to Putin, and yet he shut down the Keystone XL pipeline. It is time to return to American energy independence and American energy dominance. It is time to get to work for the American people.

RECOGNIZING MARK HANSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of an amazing educator in my district.

Earlier this year, Ottumwa High School announced that longtime principal Mark Hanson would be retiring. Mark originally served as Ottumwa's principal from 2010 to 2017 but returned to the high school as principal this past July.

Throughout his time at OHS, Mark was a true leader and visionary. He worked tirelessly to improve graduation rates, improve the school's culture and curriculum, and increase opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities.

Before coming to OHS, Mark remained active in the community, coaching basketball and tennis.

Following Mark's retirement, Shelley Bramschreiber will become the new principal. Shelley has been with Ottumwa schools since 1994. On July 1 of this year, Shelley will become the first female principal in school history.

Thank you to Mark for his decades of service to our community and best of luck to Shelley. Go Bulldogs.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I also want to take this opportunity to wish my scheduler, Tara Pinette, a happy birthday. I also wish a very happy birthday to my chief of staff, Tracie Gibler.

Later this month, my good friend Matt Leopold will celebrate his birthday, and my youngest brother, Fred, has a birthday later this month as well. Happy birthday to Matt and Freddy.

WE MUST SUPPORT UKRAINE

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

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, what has been taking place in Ukraine is pure genocide and evil. President Putin's invasion of Ukraine is no different than when Germany invaded Poland. Just as Hitler did not stop with Poland, we should not expect that Putin will stop with Ukraine, unless he is resoundingly defeated.

While much has been done to help Ukraine's defenses since Russia invaded and much has been donated in humanitarian assistance, it is not enough. We must do more. We must send more weapons, more planes, more missiles, whatever is needed.

The Ukrainians are going to fight to the very end. We must provide them every resource they need to win this war in whatever way that we possibly can. For if freedom is defeated in Ukraine, where her people fight eagerly and will to the very end, it will surely have no safe harbor elsewhere.

UNLEASH AMERICAN ENERGY DOMINANCE

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, President Biden's decision to ban the importation of Russian oil is a good step, albeit late and only after mounting bipartisan pressure to do so. There was no good reason for the United States to ever subsidize the Russian economy and President Putin's military by buying oil from Russia, a source of Putin's leverage with the West for years. Now, he wages an unprovoked and violent assault on Ukraine.

On a separate issue, nor is it a good idea for the U.S. to be sitting alongside Russia negotiating with Iran on a deal that paves Iran's path to a nuclear weapon, another pot of trouble brewing for the world, as evidenced by their missiles launched at Israelis and Americans in Iraq this past weekend.

Given all the challenges we face in the world today, we must immediately unleash American energy production so that we in the United States and our allies around the world can have access to affordable and reliable energy.

We should be authorizing new leases and permits for oil and gas projects, expediting the approval of all pipelines, and stopping the self-inflicted regulatory assault on American energy development and financing. In short, President Biden must reverse, with the

stroke of a pen, every anti-fossil fuel policy he has put in place during the past year.

If the President wants to lower gas prices at the pump and protect the environment, he is the one person who can do it, who can unleash American energy dominance. The world is going to meet its energy needs with oil and gas one way or the other. It is just a question of from where it comes. We can do it better and cleaner than anyone else, so why not do it here and serve the call of freedom.

HONORING DEBORAH JOHNSON

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Deborah Johnson, who recently received the Paulson-Whitmore State Executive Award from the National Pork Producers Council and the National Pork Board.

Deborah received the award for relentless advocacy on behalf of pork producers in North Carolina and across the country. As one of many who count her as a friend, I can think of no one more deserving of this honor.

Deborah grew up on her family's multi-generation farm in Johnston County. It is no exaggeration to say she has been involved in agriculture her entire lifetime, including as CEO of the North Carolina Pork Council.

In addition to serving in that post for 11 years, Deborah has been an influential leader in the North Carolina agriculture industry throughout her career. Additionally, she has also been involved in several organizations that contribute to the betterment of southeastern North Carolina's rural communities, many of which are the backbone of our State and Nation's pork industry.

Words cannot properly express all that Deborah Johnson has accomplished, but suffice it to say she is one of the most influential women in agriculture. She cares deeply about the State of North Carolina, about producing the world's best food and fiber, and about protecting the livelihoods of the many farm families who feed and clothe us all. Her dedication and leadership are unmatched, and I congratulate her on receiving this well-deserved award.

INFLATION HURTS ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, inflation hit 7.9 percent in February. Inflation hurts all Americans, especially seniors and those living on a fixed income.

During each of my recent townhall meetings and surveys, Madam Speaker, my constituents have consistently pleaded for the pain to stop. Unfortunately, inflation has gone up every month of Joe Biden's Presidency.

Americans are smart. They know this is not a fluke or the result of the

tragedy that is occurring in Ukraine. It is a direct consequence of liberal policies and fueled by reckless government spending. My constituents have said they simply can't afford to keep paying more for everything, which is one of the main reasons I was compelled to vote "no" on last week's \$1.5 trillion spending package. While there were individual provisions I supported, I am worried that more massive government spending will only worsen their plight. I can't, in good conscience, contribute to their pain.

CELEBRATING DENNIS KAPPAS

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Dionysios, otherwise known as Dennis, Kappas, an outstanding member of the Tarpon Springs community.

Dennis was born in Zakynthos, Greece, a beautiful island, but migrated to the United States after a devastating earthquake destroyed his island.

Dennis and his family landed in Detroit, where he was a hardworking new immigrant. He worked diligently at restaurants by day and learned English by night.

Through years of blood, sweat, and tears, as is common with the immigrant story, Dennis and his brother saved enough money to buy their own restaurant, living the American Dream.

In 1990, Dennis moved to Tarpon Springs, Florida, where he settled with his family and owned and operated Plaka restaurant, the best gyros and souvlaki on the Sponge Docks.

In addition to running Plaka and many other business ventures, Dennis has been a generous philanthropist and has made significant contributions to the centerpiece of Tarpon Springs, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral. He is donating the contents of his home chapel, including beautiful and one-of-a-kind icons, to the new church annex, which contains the newly opened and appropriately named St. Dionysios Chapel.

I am proud to call him a friend and thank him for all his meaningful contributions to our wonderful community.

Axios. He is worthy, Madam Speaker.

□ 1230

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF VINCENT M. AUGOSTINI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and celebrate Vincent Augostini, who lost his life due to complications from neurofibromatosis on January 27, 2022.

Vince, as his friends and family called him, was born in Johnson City, New York, on September 7, 1979. He was the seventh child of his mother, Dolores, and father, Louis.

Vince was a quintessential upstate New Yorker. He loved New York and

especially the southern tier, where he spent his entire life in his cherished hometown of Johnson City, New York.

Vincent enjoyed all things New York, from our terrific sports teams to our delicious and unique regional food choices. He loved rooting for the New York Yankees and the New York Giants. He savored hearty chicken spiedies, a Binghamton specialty, and enjoyed extra-crispy Buffalo chicken wings.

When he was not watching the Yankees or the Giants, Vince was also a huge fan of professional wrestling. However, few things brought him as much joy as following the New York Yankees, and God loves Yankees fans.

Decked out in Yankees gear, with a large Yankees logo displayed proudly on the back window of his van, Vince made several sacred trips from Johnson City to the Bronx to watch his beloved Bronx Bombers play.

For his 34th birthday, Vince trekked to the Bronx to watch the Yankees take on their biggest rivals, the Boston Red Sox. Before the game, Vince had the special honor of being escorted onto the field at Yankee Stadium, a high pride for him. He continued to attend every Saturday home game at Yankee Stadium until his declining health made it impossible for him to travel.

But the one thing Vince cherished most in the world was his devoted and loving family. As the youngest of seven siblings, the Augostini siblings were a source of mutual love, support, and inspiration to each other.

From family reunions to holidays and birthdays, Vince spent countless hours with his family, especially his mother, Dolores, with whom he shared a special bond.

As Vince's health inevitably declined, Dolores devoted her life to providing him with loving care. The relationship Vince and his mother shared was the epitome of unconditional love.

Even when his health began to deteriorate rapidly, Vince was more worried about his own mother than even about himself. In his final moments on Earth, and as his family tearfully expressed emotional and final good-byes, Vince mouthed the words to all of his brothers: "Please help Mom."

Vince was selfless. His courage in the face of a difficult battle to fight a lifelong and terribly debilitating disease is beyond inspiring. Most importantly, despite all the pain he endured throughout his life, Vince was unwavering in his compassion and care for all of those whom he encountered.

Vince was forever grateful for the kindness of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Vince was the 500th kid chosen from the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central New York. In November 1997, Vince had the amazing, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring his brothers and father to Chicago to meet Bulls superstar, Michael Jordan, the greatest of all time.

Vincent was truly generous at heart and wanted to make sure other children got the same opportunity, which

is why he was a frequent donor to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central New York as well as the Neurofibromatosis Foundation.

Vince spent most of his last 2 years at the Willow Point Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. However, this did not stop him from doing what he loved: watching sports, eating spiedies and chicken wings, and, of course, loving his family and friends.

The Augostini family wishes to express their immense appreciation to the staff at Willow Point for the loving care that was provided to Vince through his final days on Earth. When the pandemic restrictions prohibited visitors, the staff at Willow Point made extraordinary efforts to ensure that Vince was treated as a family member and had constant virtual access to his own family at home.

Sadly, Vince passed away on January 27, 2022, surrounded by his loving family.

Although neurofibromatosis created many challenges for Vince, he refused to let his disability affect his spirits or his passion for life. He never let the disease define him.

Vince will always be remembered for his infectious smile, his charming sense of humor, and his zest for life.

As President Abraham Lincoln said, in the end, it is not the years in life that count; it is the life in your years. In the short 42 years of his life, Vince made every single day count.

He lived every day with kindness and gratitude. Vince's perseverance and tenaciousness were an inspiration to his family, friends, and all of those who were lucky enough to know him.

I ask today that all of my colleagues join me in observing a moment of silence to remember the incredible life of Vincent Augostini.

To the Augostini family, please know that we send our deepest condolences and prayers. May Vincent rest in peace.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. McEACHIN) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Gracious and loving God, remind us, as we pause in this moment, to honor the covenant You have established with us.

In Your great mercy, You have allowed us to enjoy a personal relationship with You, a relationship based on the promise You have made, time and again, to be our protector, our shield, our confidant, and our hope.

Though repeatedly we have not lived up to our end of that promise, where we agreed that we would be Your people, may we recommit ourselves, with renewed hearts and renewed purpose, to serve You this day.

What a remarkable privilege You have given us to know You, to follow You, and to love You. You call us forth to live in response to that privilege.

Because You have forgiven our iniquity, may we respond to those around us with compassion.

Because You no longer remember our sin, may we live lives worthy of Your grace.

In the strength of Your name, we offer our prayers this day.

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 gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin 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 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

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

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 1-year anniversary of the American Rescue Plan, or the ARP.

The ARP helped to provide critical assistance to individuals and small businesses during our historic COVID-19 pandemic that has driven job and wage growth in our country.

I will focus on just one little piece of this law: the provision boosting the child tax credit.

Study after study has shown the benefits of this policy: helping families meet basic needs such as food and utilities, a need that has become even greater when we talk about the rising

costs and inflation we are all experiencing.

Unfortunately, this support ended as families are grappling with higher prices for a range of basic needs.

If you really want to help families struggling with inflation, renew the successful ARP child tax credit. It is the right prescription for struggling families.

PUTIN'S WAR

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, war criminal Putin is betraying the young soldiers of Russia to death. 18- to 20-year-old conscripts are mercilessly sent to Ukraine on a training mission not knowing they were going to murder Ukrainian families of children, women, and men. Russian mothers and fathers are lied to by Putin that this is a "special mission."

I especially understand foreign service. My father served in the Flying Tigers with the Chinese military in Kunming, Chengdu, and Xi'an to stop aggression in World War II. As a parent, I am grateful my son Alan served in Iraq, my son Add in Iraq, my son Julian in Egypt, and my son Hunter in Afghanistan.

I know Russian families are concerned for their sons who are being sacrificed by Putin, murdering for oil, money, and power in Putin's war.

That is why I have offered bipartisan legislation to Russian military defectors for expedited refugee status to America. Defectors who turn over equipment to Ukraine will receive a payment of up to \$100,000.

God bless Ukraine. God save Ukraine. Long live President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by Speaker pro tempore DEGETTE on Friday, March 11, 2022:

H.R. 2545, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes;

H.J. Res. 75, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by the Speaker on Friday, March 11, 2022:

H.R. 2471, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending

September 30, 2022, and for providing emergency assistance for the situation in Ukraine, and for other purposes.

APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUALS AND MEMBER TO THE ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CHILD CARE CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 2062, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, of the following additional individuals and Member to the Advisory Board for the House of Representatives Child Care Center:

Ms. Brooke Scannell, Arlington, Virginia

Ms. Stacey Leavandosky, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Collin Davenport, Alexandria, Virginia

Ms. Lora Snyder, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Matthew Dwyer, Alexandria, Virginia

Ms. Natalie Joyce, Arlington, Virginia

Mr. Cyrus Artz, Washington, D.C.

Ms. Alyene Mlinar, Washington, D.C.

Ms. Cari Fike, Cheverly, Maryland

Mr. Robbie Minnich, Arlington, Virginia

Ms. Jennifer Belair, Washington, D.C.

Mr. HUDSON, North Carolina

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1433

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. McEACHIN) at 2 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

BOUNDARY OF PALO ALTO BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 268) to provide for the boundary of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park to be adjusted, to authorize the donation of land to the

United States for addition to that historic park, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 268

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

SECTION 1. BOUNDARY; LEGAL DESCRIPTION.

(a) BOUNDARY.—Section 3(b)(2) of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991 (16 U.S.C. 410nnn–1(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—

“(i) In addition to the land described in paragraph (1), the historical park shall consist of—

“(I) the approximately 34 acres of land, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Palo Alto Battlefield NHS Proposed Boundary Expansion’, numbered 469/80,012, and dated May 21, 2008; and

“(II) on the date that such land is donated to the United States, the approximately 166.44 acres of land generally depicted on the map entitled ‘PALO ALTO BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK Proposed Boundary Addition, Fort Brown Unit’, numbered 469/143,589, and dated April 2018.

“(ii) Before accepting any donated land described in this subparagraph, the Secretary shall complete a boundary study analyzing the feasibility of adding the land to the national historical park.

“(iii) If a boundary study completed under clause (ii) finds that acceptance of the donated land is feasible and appropriate, the Secretary may accept such land and administer the land as part of the historical park after providing notice of such finding to Congress.”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “MAP” and inserting “MAPS”; and

(B) by striking “map” and inserting “maps”.

(b) LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—Section 3(b)(3) of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991 (16 U.S.C. 410nnn–1(b)(3)) is amended by striking “after” and all that follows through “Secretary of the Interior” and inserting “after the addition of lands to the historic park boundary, the Secretary of the Interior”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 268, the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park Boundary Adjustment Act, introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA).

H.R. 268 expands the boundary of Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park to include approximately 166 acres of land that is to be donated to the Department of the Interior.

The donated land was the site of Fort Brown, a crucial outpost during the Mexican-American War, which remains the last standing physical structure associated with that war.

During its life, Fort Brown transformed from a site designed for a confrontation into a post that served to protect the growing Mexican-American population of the region.

Palo Alto Battlefield was designated as a national historic landmark in 1960, as a national historic site in 1978, and a national historic park in 2009. Today, the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park is the only unit of the National Park Service focused on the Mexican-American War.

I congratulate Representative VELA for championing this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) will control the time for the minority.

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 268 authorizes the transfer of approximately 166 acres, by donation, from the International Boundary and Water Commission to the National Park Service for inclusion in the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park in Texas.

Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park is the site of the first major battle of the Mexican-American War and has the distinction of being the only National Park Service unit to interpret the Mexican-American War.

The land authorized to be transferred through this bill includes the historic Fort Brown site in Brownsville, Texas, which served as a critical military outpost during the Mexican-American War.

I thank Chair GRIJALVA for accommodating our request at markup to require the Secretary of the Interior to complete a boundary study analyzing the feasibility of adding this land to the park prior to it being acquired and incorporated into the boundary. The study requirement will ensure that the land to be donated is feasible for the National Park Service to manage as an addition to the park.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will help preserve an important piece of American history, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA), the sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 268, legislation to add the Fort Brown earthworks to the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

I introduced this legislation to preserve a piece of history that is not only

central to south Texas, but to our great Nation. Adding this piece of Fort Brown is critical to interpreting the Mexican-American War and the changes made to our international boundary. It is a record of our Nation's border expansion extending to the Pacific Ocean.

In hopes of establishing the Rio Grande River as the southern border of the United States, General Taylor ordered the construction of Fort Texas in March of 1846.

On May 3, 1846, Mexican General Mariano Arista attacked Fort Texas. Under the command of General Zachary Taylor, U.S. forces, including Lieutenant Ulysses S. Grant, fought at the Battle of Palo Alto and the Battle of Resaca de la Palma, two decisive victories that would force the Mexican retreat across the Rio Grande.

While the siege produced limited damage to the fort, Major Jacob Brown, who had command of the post, was mortally wounded in its defense. Afterward, General Taylor named the site Fort Brown, and the surrounding area became the town of Brownsville, Texas.

The Fort Brown earthworks is the only standing architecture in the United States associated with the Mexican-American War. Bringing the earthworks into the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park helps tell our Nation's story and protects this important symbol of the transformation of the country resulting from the 19th century westward expansion.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation so we can protect an essential piece of our history that will help us to tell the story of our Nation long into the future. I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their support in this legislation.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am ready to close when the gentleman from Arizona is. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I have one additional request to address the legislation.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ).

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Congressman FILEMON VELA's bill, H.R. 268, which would add Fort Brown to the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park located in Brownsville, Texas.

By including this fort, we are creating a national monument for the only standing architecture in the United States associated with the Mexican-American War.

In 1845, after the annexation of Texas, President James Polk sent soldiers to Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, to proclaim the boundary of the United States at the Rio Grande River.

In 1846, General Zachary Taylor ordered the construction of the fort, which consisted of a six-sided

earthwork. Once finished, General Taylor left to procure supplies and gave command of the fort to Major Jacob Brown.

On May 3, 1846, Mexico sought to capitalize on the depleted resources and bombarded the fort for 6 straight days. Major Jacob Brown and the American troops fought valiantly, forcing Mexico to retreat. American forces only lost two soldiers, one of which was Major Brown himself.

Today, the city of Brownsville and Fort Brown serve as a testament to Major Brown's valor, patriotism, and sacrifice. By passing H.R. 268, we as a Nation will honor Major Brown and the Americans who stood their ground at Fort Brown.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join Congressman VELA and I in preserving this important part of south Texas' and our entire country's history.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I join with the ranking member to urge adoption of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 268, which will preserve The Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park. The preservation and expansion of the Palo Alto Battlefield will continue to provide access, and encourage public understanding of this historically important site.

I support this legislation because the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park marks the 1846 clash of Mexican and U.S. troops, preserves the battle site, and includes history tours. The park preserves the site and informs visitors about its national and international importance. The Mexican-American war of 1846–1848 gained the great state of Texas its independence. This bill will authorize the donation of the park and grant the authority to the United States to implement a boundary to preserve in perpetuity of the history of a key notable battle that changed the map of North America.

Specifically, H.R. 268 adjusts the boundary of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park in Texas by including approximately 166 acres of land donated to the U.S. that will be identified on the map titled Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park, Proposed Boundary Addition, Fort Brown Unit (2018), when the land is donated to the United States.

Finally, the bill authorizes the transfer of property from the International Boundary and Water Commission to the National Park Service (NPS) to be part of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park. The identified land was the site of Fort Brown, a crucial outpost during the conflict and which remains the last standing physical structure associated with the Mexican-American War.

Palo Alto Battlefield was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1960, a National Historic Site in 1978, and a National Historical Park in 2009. Today, the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park is the only unit of the NPS focused on the Mexican-American War.

President James K. Polk, in his December 1845 message to Congress, characterized the recent annexation of Texas by the United

States, with a boundary along the Rio Grande. He had campaigned for the presidency with a pledge to extend the United States to the Pacific Ocean, and the addition of the Republic of Texas as the 28th state represented a major step toward that goal.

Mexico, however, challenged annexation. Although Texas had severed ties with Mexico in 1836, many Mexican leaders refused to recognize its independence and denounced the U.S. move as an attack on Mexico. The Rio Grande River formed the boundary of the new state. Mexico had always mapped Texas as a much smaller region—bounded in part by the Nueces River. Polk's call for a Rio Grande border placed a huge expanse of territory in dispute.

President Polk attempted to force a settlement of the boundary issues. In the summer of 1845, he sent an envoy to Mexico City to negotiate an agreement. The tactic failed. In Mexico, hardline Gen. Mariano Paredes y Arrillaga marched to the capital, seized control of the government, and announced that he would discuss nothing but the return of Texas. Clear battle lines had been drawn.

When Mexican and United States troops clashed on the Palo Alto Battlefield, cannon blasts and musket fire were not the only dangers. In the field's harsh environment, they also encountered poisonous snakes and insects, and prickly plants. These natural hazards remain today.

On May 8, 1846, U.S. and Mexican troops clashed on the coastal prairie of Palo Alto, where the Rio Grande empties into the Gulf of Mexico. The ensuing two-year conflict changed the map of North America. Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park preserves and interprets the site and memory of that battle, vividly described in dozens of letters and diaries written by soldiers.

The Palo Alto Battlefield includes 3,400 acres of prairie and dense chaparral. The battlefield is being restored to its 1846 condition landscape and its trails, facilities, and visitor services are under development. The battlefield is located at 7200 Paredes Line Rd. (FM 1847) in Brownsville, TX, just north of the FM 511 intersection.

The Resaca de la Palma and Fort Brown sites, both National Historic Landmarks, will also be preserved. Today the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield lies on Paredes Line Rd. in the heart of Brownsville, which has swallowed up much of the original scene. But 38 acres of the battlefield survive. In 2011 it became a second unit of Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.

Fort Brown has suffered over time from the effects of erosion and levee construction on the Rio Grande. A few earthen mounds near the Fort Brown Golf Course are all that remain. Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park is cooperating with private and public partners to preserve Fort Brown for public enjoyment and education.

I ask all members to join me in voting for H.R. 268, to support the authorization of the donation of the land to the United States to continue the preservation and expansion of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 268, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

KA'ENA POINT NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1908) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Ka'ena Point National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1908

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 "Ka'ena Point National Heritage Area Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **HERITAGE AREA.**—The term "Heritage Area" means the Ka'ena Point National Heritage Area.

(2) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) **STATE.**—The term "State" means the State of Hawaii.

(4) **STUDY AREA.**—The term "study area" means Honolulu County on the island of O'ahu.

SEC. 3. STUDY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with State and local historic preservation officers, State and local historical societies, State and local tourism offices, and other appropriate organizations and governmental agencies, shall conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a National Heritage Area, to be known as the "Ka'ena Point National Heritage Area".

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The study shall include analysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the study area—

(1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that—

(A) represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States;

(B) is worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use; and

(C) would be best managed—

(i) through partnerships among public and private entities; and

(ii) by linking diverse and sometimes non-contiguous resources and active communities;

(2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklore that are a valuable part of the story of the United States;

(3) provides outstanding opportunities—

(A) to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features; and

(B) for recreation and education;

(4) contains resources that—

(A) are important to any identified themes of the study area; and

(B) retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;

(5) includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and State and local governments that—

(A) are involved in the planning of the Heritage Area;

(B) have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all partici-

pants in the Heritage Area, including the Federal Government; and

(C) have demonstrated support for the designation of the Heritage Area;

(6) has a potential management entity to work in partnership with the individuals and entities described in paragraph (5) to develop the Heritage Area while encouraging State and local economic activity; and

(7) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(1) the findings of the study under section 3; and

(2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1908, the Ka'ena Point National Heritage Area Act, introduced by the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE), my Natural Resources Committee colleague.

This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating Ka'ena Point National Heritage Area in the State of Hawaii.

The study focuses on the undeveloped area of the point on the west end of the island of Oahu and home to some of the richest and most well-preserved cultural aspects of Hawaii's history along with invaluable and unique environmental and natural resources.

□ 1445

This area is the site of the last intact sand dune ecosystem in Hawaii and an important cultural site that, according to some Hawaiian tradition, is where the souls of the deceased leapt into the next plane of existence.

Rich with wildlife and thriving biodiversity, the area is home to various protected species, including Laysan albatrosses, the wedge-tailed shearwaters, monk seals, and fragile native plants.

I congratulate my colleague, Representative CASE, for championing this bill on behalf of his constituents. I urge my colleagues to support the legisla-

tion, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

H.R. 1908, offered by Congressman CASE of Hawaii, requires the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating Ka'ena Point National Heritage Area.

The study authorized by this bill focuses on an undeveloped area on the west end of O'ahu that is home to the last intact sand dune species in Hawaii.

As the chairman pointed out, this point is also inhabited by various protected species, the wedge-tailed shearwaters, monk seals, and rare native plants.

The feasibility study that this bill authorizes will be conducted in consultation with State and local historic preservation officers, historical societies, and tourism offices.

Some day I hope to be able to visit this Ka'ena Point with Congressman CASE. I urge adoption of the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE), the sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1908, the Ka'ena Point National Heritage Area Act. I wish first to recognize and say "mahalo," or thank you, to my partner in our Hawaii congressional delegation, Representative KAIALI'I KAHELE, who co-introduced this bill with me.

Our bill directs the U.S. Department of the Interior to study whether Ka'ena Point, a treasured wilderness area on the western tip of the island of O'ahu, should be designated as a national heritage area, or NHA. The 3-year study would evaluate whether Ka'ena Point holds invaluable resources that reflect our country's heritage and are worthy of conservation and special recognition nationally. Such a designation would also offer critical support to our local community in Hawaii to conserve the area for present and future use.

I am certain that Ka'ena Point is a perfect candidate for NHA designation. It houses a rich cultural and environmental history. It is the location of one of Hawaii's most sacred places, a leina a ka 'uhane, a leaping place of souls where, according to native Hawaiian tradition, the spirits of the recently deceased leap from this realm to the next.

As one of the last few remaining and easily accessible wilderness areas on O'ahu, the sand dunes of Ka'ena Point are home to a number of endemic and endangered species, such as the Hawaiian monk seal, Laysan albatross, and the ohai flower.

Our bill will ensure the full collaboration of the local community in preserving the traditions and pristine nature of Ka'ena Point. The community, our local organizations, fishers, hikers, and neighborhood groups, will be fully

engaged throughout the study process and, if the area is eventually designated as an NHA, will be integral partners in the area's management.

Finally, I also thank the chairs and ranking members of my full Committee on Natural Resources and Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, and our staffs for your understanding and support of our proposal.

And yes, to the ranking member, I look forward to showing you Ka'ena Point as soon as you can come out.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this legislation.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on the legislation. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I again urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, we all know Hawaii is a beautiful State. The bill will help protect and conserve that rich environmental and cultural heritage. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

And I urge Representative CASE to invite all of us to Hawaii when it is time to see the site.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1908; the "Ka'ena Point National Heritage Area Act" which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Ka'ena Point National Heritage Area.

Different from national parks, national heritage areas are community-based efforts that preserve and share stories about a region's history and character. Heritage areas contain a mixture of public and private property, including towns, historic sites, parks, trails, commercial districts, and even working farms.

National Heritage Areas are a grassroots, community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development. Through public-private partnerships, NHA entities support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects. Leveraging funds and long-term support for projects, NHA partnerships foster pride of place and an enduring stewardship ethic.

When an area is designated as an NHA, its inhabitants don't have to leave. An important aspect of NHAs is that they are intended as a celebration of a living environment, and they improve the local economy around them.

The National Parks Service estimates NHAs average \$5.50 for every \$1.00 of federal investment, bolstering the local economies through their unique "heritage tourism."

Not only are NHAs economically friendly, but they are also climate friendly. Many NHAs improve water and air quality in their regions through restoration projects and encourage people to enjoy natural and cultural sites by providing new recreational opportunities.

This modern approach to conservation taken by NHAs should influence the NPS' approach, extending the appreciation for the nexus between the people and land.

John Muir was a greatly revered conservationist who some consider partly responsible for the establishment of our National Parks System. He and former President Theodore Roosevelt went on a camping trip to Yosemite, and after the trip was done, President Roosevelt was inspired by his conservationist ideas and thus established the National Parks System.

As a result of that camping trip, we now have 423 national parks. While their grandeur and contributions to employment, quality of life, and national beauty are not to be overlooked, much of the lands these parks lie on were stolen from indigenous tribes.

For example, Yellowstone National Park. Yellowstone National Park was created when President Ulysses S. Grant signed into law the Yellowstone Act of 1872, which created America's first landscape to be "reserved and withdrawn from settlement, occupancy, or sale . . . and dedicated and set apart as a public park or pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people."

Because of this order, the Crow, Blackfeet, Bannock, Nez Perce, and Shoshone tribes were all removed from Yellowstone, lands they had inhabited for generations. Recent studies have found additional tribal claims to the land numbering as high as 27, yet despite this information there is no redress in sight.

It is worth noting that the NPS has graciously set up programs for Native students and has increased tribal consultation to exchange information about park projects and ethnographic resources. The tribes have requested to participate in resource management and decision-making, to conduct ceremonies and other events in the park, and to collect plants and minerals for traditional uses.

This is a step in the right direction, but it is a far cry from justice which has been long denied and overdue for native peoples.

Land sovereignty has always been a false promise the U.S. Government has offered to its indigenous peoples, which is even more relevant in the case of indigenous Hawaiians.

Since the illegal overthrow of their government and subsequent colonization of Hawaii in 1898, indigenous Hawaiians' struggle has not ended. From the Mauna Kea protests spanning the last few years concerning an observatory to be placed on sacred land to the Kalama Valley Protests surrounding evictions of farmers from their lands to build a resort in the 1970s, indigenous Hawaiians have endlessly fought for self-preservation and self-determination as they were promised, and the fight will continue.

Their fight will be aided by the passage of the Ka'ena Point National Heritage Area Act. I am grateful that Representatives CASE and KAHELE have committed to fully involving all engaged communities, including native Hawaiians.

It is for that reason, Mr. Speaker, that I rise in strong support of H.R. 1908, the Ka'ena Point National Heritage Area Act and urge my colleagues support for the Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1908.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT EDUCATION ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1931) to provide competitive grants for the promotion of Japanese American confinement education as a means to understand the importance of democratic principles, use and abuse of power, and to raise awareness about the importance of cultural tolerance toward Japanese Americans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1931

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 "Japanese American Confinement Education Act".

SEC. 2. JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT EDUCATION GRANTS.

Public Law 109-441 (120 Stat. 3290) is amended—

(1) in section 2, by adding at the end the following:

"(4) JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT EDUCATION GRANTS.—The term 'Japanese American Confinement Education Grants' means competitive grants, awarded through the Japanese American Confinement Sites Program, for Japanese American organizations to educate individuals, including through the use of digital resources, in the United States on the historical importance of Japanese American confinement during World War II, so that present and future generations may learn from Japanese American confinement and the commitment of the United States to equal justice under the law.

"(5) JAPANESE AMERICAN ORGANIZATION.—The term 'Japanese American organization' means a private nonprofit organization within the United States established to promote the understanding and appreciation of the ethnic and cultural diversity of the United States by illustrating the Japanese American experience throughout the history of the United States."; and

(2) in section 4—

(A) by inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—" before "There are authorized";

(B) by striking "\$38,000,000" and inserting "\$80,000,000"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT EDUCATION GRANTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made available under this section, not more than \$10,000,000 shall be awarded as Japanese American Confinement Education Grants to Japanese American organizations. Such competitive grants shall be in an amount not less than \$750,000 and the Secretary shall give priority consideration to Japanese American organizations with fewer than 100 employees.

"(2) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

"(A) FIFTY PERCENT.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), for funds awarded under this subsection, the Secretary shall require a 50 percent match with non-Federal assets from non-Federal sources, which may include cash or durable goods and materials fairly valued, as determined by the Secretary.

"(B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or part of the matching requirement

under subparagraph (A), if the Secretary determines that—

“(i) no reasonable means are available through which an applicant can meet the matching requirement; and

“(ii) the probable benefit of the project funded outweighs the public interest in such matching requirement.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1931, the Japanese American Confinement Education Act, introduced by my colleague, Representative DORIS MATSUI.

In 2006, Congress established the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program for the preservation and interpretation of U.S. confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II.

These grants are awarded through a competitive process to entities working to preserve historic Japanese American incarceration sites. They require a 2:1 Federal to non-Federal match.

H.R. 1931 would authorize increased and much-needed funding for the program within the National Park Service, ensuring that the lessons and history of the unjust incarceration of Japanese Americans is not forgotten, and that we continue to learn from the transgression of the past.

The bill will also establish a new competitive grant within the program that would support nonprofits to create and share educational materials about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

I congratulate my colleague, Representative MATSUI, for championing this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1931 extends the authorization of the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program and establishes a new competitive grant program to award grants to Japanese American organizations to create and disseminate educational materials about the history of Japanese American confinement during World War II.

In 2006, Congress established the Japanese American Confinement Sites, or

JACS grant program to preserve and interpret U.S. Confinement Sites during World War II. However, the program will soon run up against the end of its authorization cap.

The program has supported valuable projects across the country, including at least 12 in my home State of Arkansas, where important projects have been funded at my alma mater, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, as well as Arkansas State University, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, University of Central Arkansas, and the Central Arkansas Library System, and the McGehee Industrial Foundation.

These projects include archiving, creating educational exhibits, hosting workshops and lectures, preserving cemeteries, and recording oral histories.

I appreciate Representative MATSUI's work on this important legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support extending the program.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), sponsor of the legislation.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Japanese American Confinement Education Act. This bill builds upon one of my earliest achievements, reauthorizing the Japanese American Confinement Sites program established in 2006.

The Japanese American story is an important one. It needs to be told and retold. It is a story that cannot afford to be lost in time.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the authorization of Executive Order 9066. Yet, too many Americans do not know the history of the Japanese American community.

These Americans were stripped from their homes and sent to remote camps. Families were put behind barbed wire and guarded by armed soldiers.

Today, I speak to you on the floor of the people's House as a Member of this esteemed Chamber. Yet, my first 3 months of life were part of that pained experience. My parents were among those who lived in these appalling conditions, incarcerated solely because of their ancestry. This also included many people from the Sacramento region, including my late husband, Congressman Bob Matsui, who was only 6 months old when he was sent to one of these camps.

Those of us in the Japanese American community know all too well if we do not learn from history, we risk the chance of it repeating. That is why we must continue to lift up these stories. That is why we must continue to listen to those who came before us and teach this history to our future generations. These are the voices that my bill seeks to preserve.

There are still some people who think that by walling off our country from the less fortunate, that we will

somehow make ourselves safer; that by making people feel like the other, that we will be more secure.

But that is not who the American people are. We have this wonderfully diverse Nation and it is together that we stand the strongest.

The story of Japanese Americans is something that Bob and I felt a responsibility to preserve; the history of individuals and families in the Japanese American community. And really, it is truly an American story of perseverance, persistence, and the love of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on educating our public about this important, painful piece of American history.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE).

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1931, the Japanese American Confinement Education Act, as well as H.R. 6434, the Japanese American World War II History Network Act, which we will consider later today.

I am honored and humbled to cosponsor these measures, and I sincerely thank my colleagues from California, Representatives MATSUI and OBERNOLTE, for their work in crafting both pieces of legislation to ensure that the inexcusable injustices faced by our Nation's Japanese American community during World War II are never forgotten.

The memory of World War II evokes one of the darkest periods of our history as a country, the mass internment of Japanese Americans. Over the course of the war, our Federal Government forcibly relocated and incarcerated about 120,000 Japanese Americans, the majority of whom were U.S. citizens, in barbed wire enclosed camps.

H.R. 1931 and H.R. 6434 both strengthen our ability, if not necessity, to tell what happened in these confinement sites, and to ensure that future generations learned what happened so it never occurs again.

I urge my colleagues to honor and remember the Japanese Americans who were incarcerated at still-infamous sites like Manzanar, Tule Lake, where my wife's uncle and aunt, simple truck farmers from Sacramento, were interned, Heart Mountain, and the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Honolulu by voting “yes” on both H.R. 1931 and H.R. 6434.

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Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I encourage passage of this bill.

I have friends back in Arkansas who, like Representative MATSUI, at a young age, were in some of these internment camps, and they are great Americans, very patriotic. We owe it to them to recognize what happened and to support this program.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I urge approval of H.R. 1931. The sponsor of the legislation, Representative MATSUI, and also Representative CASE have made, I think, the profound argument for the legislation and its support.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1931 the Japanese American Confinement Education Act that would provide education to elevate understanding about the confinement of Japanese Americans during World War II. In addition to a museum-based educational program, this bill would permanently reauthorize the Japanese American Confinement Sites Preservation Program.

H.R. 1931 will direct the Department of the Interior to establish a program of grants to Japanese American museums to educate about the confinement of Japanese Americans as a means to understand the importance of democratic principles, the use and abuse of power, and to raise awareness about the importance of cultural tolerance toward Japanese Americans.

Two months after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941, President Roosevelt signed an Executive Order that authorized the relocation of Japanese Americans, most of whom were U.S. citizens, to designated camps nationwide.

Teaching about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII would emphasize the importance of understanding the terrible social injustices that have been inflicted upon racial and ethnic minority groups in the United States.

Highlighting this subject would create a thoughtful, deep awareness about our community, our world, and ourselves.

We must teach that the incarceration of Japanese Americans was wrong, and that racism is wrong.

This sort of hysteria may occur again, and people must do their part to make sure that it never happens again.

Illuminating and confronting the tragedy inflicted upon Japanese Americans during WWII can help shape the citizens who will lead us into a more socially aware future.

Keeping the memories of incarceration alive also gives Japanese Americans the ability and responsibility to speak out when other groups are unfairly targeted on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, or other identity.

My former colleague Congressman Norman Mineta, who represented the constituents of California's 13th and 15th Congressional districts, is a survivor of the Heart Mountain internment camp near Cody, Wyoming.

In his remarks during a House debate on the passage of the Civil Liberties Act, he exclaimed that he, and all the other prisoners, "lost [their] most basic human rights. [Their] own government had branded [them] with the unwarranted stigma of disloyalty which clings to [them] still to this day."

Secretary Mineta helped lead the efforts to pass the Civil Liberties Act, which offered a formal apology from the United States Government for its policies toward Japanese Americans and paid each of the 80,000 living survivors \$20,000 in compensation.

His tenacity and faith led him to become a member of Congress for 20 years, Secretary

of Commerce under President Bill Clinton, and Secretary of Transportation under President George W. Bush.

It is our duty as Members of Congress to honor and commemorate Secretary Mineta, and all other survivors of this unjust racial attack, by passing this bill and educating everyone on these atrocities to ensure nothing like this will ever happen again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1931, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GUAM NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2899) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating areas within the island of Guam as a National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2899

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

SECTION 1. THE GUAM NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with appropriate regional and local organizations or agencies, shall conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the study areas as National Heritage Areas.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include analysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the study areas—

(A) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that—

(i) represent distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States;

(ii) are worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use by residents and visitors; and

(iii) would be best managed—

(I) through partnerships among public and private entities; and

(II) by linking diverse and sometimes non-contiguous resources and active communities that share a common heritage;

(B) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the story of the United States;

(C) provides—

(i) outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features; and

(ii) outstanding recreational and educational and cultural tourism opportunities;

(D) contains resources that—

(i) are important to any identified themes of the study area; and

(ii) retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;

(E) includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, including museums and heritage organizations, and State and local governments that—

(i) are involved in the planning of the National Heritage Area;

(ii) have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants in the Area, including the Federal Government; and

(iii) have demonstrated support for the designation of the Area;

(F) has a potential management entity to work in partnership with the individuals and entities described in subparagraph (E) to develop the Area while encouraging State and local economic activity; and

(G) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.

(b) PRIVATE PROPERTY CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the study, the Secretary shall consider the potential impact that designation of the study area as a national heritage area would have on private property on Guam.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the third fiscal year after the date on which funds are first made available for this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(1) the findings of the study; and

(2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AREA.—The term "Area" means a National Heritage Area located in Guam.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) STUDY AREA.—The term "study area" means the island of Guam.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2899, introduced by my Committee on Natural Resources colleague, Delegate SAN NICOLAS.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2899 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designated areas within the island of Guam as national heritage areas. The study would cover the entire island of Guam and identify areas of natural, historic, and cultural importance that reflect the traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that represent distinct and nationally significant aspects of the American story.

I congratulate Delegate SAN NICOLAS for his strong advocacy in promoting this legislation on behalf of his constituents, and I urge support from my colleagues on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2899, offered by Mr. SAN NICOLAS of Guam, requires the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating areas within the island of Guam as a national heritage area.

Archaeological evidence indicates that the Mariana Islands were one of the first places settled by seafaring peoples. The last 400 years of Guam's history are marked by administrations of three different nations: Spain, the United States, and Japan. After the Spanish-American War in 1898, Guam was ceded to the United States as an unincorporated territory.

Guam's rich history and culture merit consideration for national heritage area status.

I support Congressman SAN NICOLAS' bill to study areas within the island of Guam to determine whether they merit designation as a national heritage area in the future.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Guam (Mr. SAN NICOLAS), the sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, Guam would like to begin by thanking the committee chairman for his leadership on this measure, as well as the ranking member, the gentleman from Arkansas, for the unanimous support of the committee for this legislation, H.R. 2899, and the majority leader for us being able to bring this measure to the floor today.

Madam Speaker, this bill would authorize the National Park Service to conduct a study throughout the territory of Guam to identify sites that will be eligible for designation as national heritage areas.

The first such designation occurred in 1984, signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. Since that time, 54 other sites throughout the country have been so designated as national heritage areas, enjoying the rightful support of this Federal Government to preserve, promote, and enhance the significance of these sites in the fabric of America.

Madam Speaker, Guam, in relation to our capital, is our westernmost territory, situated closer to Asia than America. Our island possesses one of the largest contiguous coral reefs in the country; a deep history that includes sites of Imperial Japanese occupation, devastation, and decimation during World War II; over 300 years of Spanish colonization and subjugation; 124 years as a U.S. possession; and 3,000 years of present-day indigenous history carried on by the indigenous CHamoru people, who this month recognized CHamoru culture and history month with Mes CHamoru.

Guam holds stories of resiliency, loyalty, triumph over struggle, and the struggle that is our present-day unreconciled relationship with these United States. It is the birthplace of patriots who gave their lives for this country; veterans who proudly served; and Americans through and through, who patiently yet persistently seek full inclusion in this great Nation.

This legislation is but one of many steps we must take to fully acknowledge the fabric of the territory of Guam and all territories in the tapestry that is American democracy.

Our national heritage is not contiguous to a single landmass, nor is it homogeneous to any single people. It is, in fact, everything and everyone we are today and the confluence of circumstances that have brought us to this day.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues throughout this Congress to join our colleagues on the committee to secure unanimous passage of H.R. 2899 as symbolic of the unanimity of this great Nation, the United States, Tribes, and territories of America.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, again, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON, LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2899, "To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating areas within the island of Guam as a National Heritage Area, and for other purposes."

Different from national parks, national heritage areas are community-based efforts that preserve and share stories about a region's history and character. Heritage areas contain a mixture of public and private property, including towns, historic sites, parks, trails, commercial districts, and even working farms.

National Heritage Areas are a grassroots, community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development. Through public-private partnerships, NHA entities support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects. Leveraging funds and long-term support for projects, NHA partnerships foster pride of place and an enduring stewardship ethic.

When an area is designated as an NHA, its inhabitants don't have to leave. An important aspect of NHAs is that they are intended as a celebration of a living environment, and they improve the local economy around them.

The National Parks Service estimates NHAs average \$5.50 for every \$1.00 of federal investment, bolstering the local economies through their unique "heritage tourism."

Not only are NHAs economically friendly, but they are also climate friendly. Many NHAs improve water and air quality in their regions through restoration projects and encourage people to enjoy natural and cultural sites by providing new recreational opportunities.

Guam is much more than sun, sea, and sand. The island is awash with a history that dates back to the Latte Period of 2000BC, the

period of Ancient Chamorro life before a Spanish expedition led by Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan arrived on March 6, 1521.

With 131 sites around the island listed on the National Register of Historic Places, these historical landmarks weave a fascinating tale of the island's struggles, resilience, and victories over thousands of years. Though the island's colorful history spans the Spanish era, the American period, and Japanese WWII occupation, today Guam is most widely celebrated for its native Chamorro culture and pride.

Chamorros are the indigenous people of the Mariana Islands of which Guam is the largest and southernmost on an island chain. Archaeological evidence identified civilization dating back 5,000 years.

Their vernacular, called the Chamorro language, is interestingly not a Micronesian dialect but a distinct language with its own vocabulary and grammar.

Therefore, considering the richness of Guam's land and its peoples, it brings me much joy to rise in strong support of H.R. 2899. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

It is for that reason, Madam Speaker, that I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2899.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MODERNIZING ACCESS TO OUR PUBLIC LAND ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3113) to require the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3113

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 "Modernizing Access to Our Public Land Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term "Federal land" means any land managed by a Federal land management agency.

(2) FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—The term "Federal land management agency" means—

- (A) the Bureau of Reclamation;
- (B) the National Park Service;
- (C) the Bureau of Land Management;
- (D) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;
- (E) the Forest Service; and

(F) the Corps of Engineers.

(3) ROAD OR TRAIL.—The term “road or trail” means a road or trail designated by 1 or more of the Secretaries for public use.

(4) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries” means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service;

(B) the Secretary of the Interior; and

(C) the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY DATA STANDARDIZATION.

Not later than 30 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall jointly develop and adopt interagency standards to ensure compatibility and interoperability among applicable Federal databases with respect to the collection and dissemination of data—

(1) relating to public outdoor recreational use on Federal land; and

(2) used to depict locations at which recreation uses are available to the public.

SEC. 4. DIGITIZATION AND PUBLICATION OF EASEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each of the Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable, shall digitize and publish on the applicable agency website geographic information system mapping data that specifies, with respect to the relevant Secretary, all Federal interests in private land, including easements (other than flowage easements), reservations, and rights-of-way—

(1) to which the Federal Government does not have a fee title interest; and

(2) that may be used to provide public recreational access to the Federal land.

(b) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretaries shall develop a process to allow members of the public to submit questions or comments regarding the information described in subsection (a).

SEC. 5. DATA CONSOLIDATION AND PUBLICATION OF ROUTE AND AREA DATA FOR PUBLIC RECREATIONAL USE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each of the Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable, shall make publicly available on the website of the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service, and the Corps of Engineers, as applicable, geographic information system data with respect to the following:

(1) Status information with respect to whether roads and trails on the Federal land are open or closed.

(2) The dates on which roads and trails on the Federal land are seasonally closed.

(3) The classes of vehicles and types of recreational uses that are allowed on each segment of roads and trails on the Federal land, including the permissibility of—

(A) off-highway vehicles;

(B) motorcycles;

(C) nonmotorized bicycles;

(D) electric bicycles;

(E) passenger vehicles;

(F) nonmechanized transportation; and

(G) over-snow vehicles.

(4) The boundaries of areas where hunting or recreational shooting (including archery, firearm discharge, and target shooting) is permanently restricted or prohibited on the Federal land.

(b) UPDATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable, shall update the data described in subsection (a) not less frequently than twice per year.

(2) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretaries shall develop a process to allow members of the public to submit questions or comments regarding the information described in subsection (a).

(c) EFFECT.—Geographic information system data made publicly available under subsection (a) shall not disclose information regarding the nature, location, character, or ownership of historic, paleontological, or archaeological resources, consistent with applicable law.

SEC. 6. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION.

(a) THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—The Secretaries may enter into an agreement with a third party to carry out any provision of this Act.

(b) US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—The Secretaries may work with the Director of the United States Geological Survey to collect, aggregate, digitize, standardize, or publish data on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior to meet the requirements of this Act.

SEC. 7. REPORTS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter through March 30, 2031, the Secretaries shall submit a report on the progress made by the Secretaries with respect to meeting the requirements of this Act to—

(1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated—

(1) to the Secretary of the Interior to carry out this Act—

(A) \$2,500,000 for fiscal year 2022; and

(B) \$5,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2025;

(2) to the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out this Act—

(A) \$2,500,000 for fiscal year 2022; and

(B) \$5,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2025; and

(3) to the Secretary of the Army to carry out this Act—

(A) \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2022; and

(B) \$2,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2025.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam 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 the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3113, the Modernizing Access to Our Public Land Act, or MAPLand Act, introduced by my Committee on Natural Resources colleague, Representative BLAKE MOORE.

Our committee has long focused on sportsmen's access to public lands. I am pleased that shortly after I became chair, we were able to pass the bipar-

tisan John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, which included an entire title on sportsmen's access.

The MAPLand Act would build on that law, as well as the investments made by the Great American Outdoors Act, to help ensure that hunters, anglers, and all Americans can more easily find information and resources to help facilitate public lands access.

Representative MOORE's bill would direct the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service, and the Army Corps of Engineers to jointly develop and adopt standards to ensure database compatibility for the collection and sharing of outdoor recreation data related to Federal lands.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representative MOORE for championing this bill on behalf of everyone who enjoys our public lands, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I also rise in support, along with Chairman GRIJALVA, and I thank him for his support of H.R. 3113, the MAPLand Act, offered by the ranking member of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Mr. BLAKE MOORE of Utah.

This bill directs the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Army Corps of Engineers to jointly develop and adopt interagency standards for the collection and dissemination of outdoor recreation data on Federal lands.

Our Nation's outdoorsmen and -women are increasingly reliant on digital mapping and GPS technologies to hunt, fish, and enjoy other recreation activities on our Nation's complicated patchwork of Federal lands. Unfortunately, inconsistent and incomplete digital mapping data frequently prevents the public and Federal land management agencies from maximizing the full benefits of these technologies.

Mr. MOORE's bill requires our Federal land management agencies to digitize records of easements and rights-of-way across private lands so the public will have a better understanding of Federal land access points and ensure that Americans recreating stay safe and avoid trespassing.

Outdoor recreation is vital to our Nation's economy, and the way we expand outdoor recreation is to expand access.

Madam Speaker, I commend Mr. MOORE for his hard work on this important legislation to modernize our Federal land management records, and I urge adoption of the measure.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3113, the Modernizing Access to Our Public Land Act, or MAPLand Act.

Access to America's lands is critical. Driven in part by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are seeing more people hunt, fish, hike, and bike than ever before. Recreating on these lands creates fond memories, improves the physical and mental health of Americans, and contributes significantly to our economy.

Each year, outdoor recreation across the country injects \$887 billion into our economy. These dollars support communities in Utah and nationwide, contribute to high-paying jobs, and connect us through our shared hobbies and interests.

There are roughly 640 million acres of land in the Federal estate. Of these, more than 9 million acres in the Western United States have no permanent legal means of access.

Land users understand firsthand the shortage of information that exists on which lands are opened, how they can be accessed, and more. In fact, tens of thousands of important land access files are currently outdated or only in paper form, filling up cabinets in office building basements. This just simply isn't good enough for the 21st century.

This lack of access to crucial information prevents us from enjoying all that our lands have to offer, and it makes it more difficult for the hard-working employees at our land management agencies to do their jobs.

It is time to fix these problems by modernizing the data behind our Federal lands. My bill, H.R. 3113, the MAPLand Act, will do just that.

Madam Speaker, this bipartisan and bicameral commonsense legislation will help our Federal land management agencies work together better by creating shared data standards and improving the digital information available to all who visit our lands.

Making this information more detailed and accessible in the digital age is one of the many reasons why this bill enjoys such broad support. This is about helping families spend more time together outside, about improving the way that our government works, and about fostering and sharing the joy of the great outdoors.

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I am grateful to Ranking Members FULCHER and WESTERMAN and Chairmen NEGUSE and GRIJALVA for cosponsoring the MAPLand Act and helping drive it forward.

I am also grateful for staff members and stakeholder groups who worked closely with my office at all hours on this important effort that will bring our lands into the 21st century. This has truly been a collaborative effort that will reverberate for years to come and one that I have been proud to be a part of.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support my legislation, and

I hope my colleagues in the Senate will consider and pass this important bill expeditiously.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I encourage adoption of this commonsense bill. It will be very beneficial to provide better access to our outdoor recreation areas, and I think it would also be a great benefit to Americans.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I concur with Ranking Member WESTERMAN and urge support of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3113, the "Modernizing Access to Our Public Land Act," or the MAPLand Act, which will make it easier for every American to access data for outdoor recreation possibilities.

It directs the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to jointly develop and adopt standards to ensure compatibility among federal databases for the collection and dissemination of outdoor recreation data related to federal lands.

The Department of the Interior, the Forest Service, and the Corps of Engineers must digitize and publish geographic information system mapping data that includes:

federal interests, including easements and rights-of-way, in private land;

status information as to whether roads and trails are open or closed;

the dates on which roads and trails are seasonally opened and closed;

the types of vehicles that are allowed on each segment of roads and trails;

the boundaries of areas where hunting or recreational shooting is regulated or closed; and

the boundaries of any portion of a body of water that is closed to entry, is closed to watercraft, or has horsepower limitations for watercraft.

The MAPLand Act's stipulations will provide essential information to all Americans who wish to spend time on our beautiful public lands.

Because of the provisions in this bill, Americans will have the most up to date information about the trail they wish to hike, stream or lake they wish to fish on, or regulations of grounds on which they wish to hunt.

This ensures that all Americans will be safe while exploring our great outdoors, making this legislation's passage of the utmost necessity.

This bill would also allow our agencies to manage and plan more effectively while also reducing the potential for access-related conflicts between recreators and private landowners. Simply put, this legislation promises to help more people get outdoors.

Currently, more than 9.52 million acres of land in the West lack permanent and legal access points for public use, and information on these lands is still kept on paper files.

Approximately 5,000 of the Forest Service's 37,000 recorded easements have been digitized and uploaded to an electronic database. The MAPLand Act would help give federal land management agencies the resources they need to digitize these files for public use,

as well as require these agencies to provide information on seasonal vehicle restrictions on public roads and trails, hunting boundaries, and watercraft restrictions.

Madam Speaker, it is for these reasons that I strongly support H.R. 3113, the MAPLand Act and therefore urge my colleagues to support this legislation as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3113, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. 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.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

SAVE THE LIBERTY THEATRE ACT OF 2021

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3197) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the City of Eunice, Louisiana, certain Federal land in Louisiana, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3197

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 "Save the Liberty Theatre Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CITY.—The term "City" means the City of Eunice, Louisiana.

(2) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, Proposed Boundary Revision and Disposal", numbered 467/168813, and dated December 2020.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. LAND CONVEYANCE.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall convey to the City, by quitclaim deed and without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcels of land described in subsection (b).

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcels of land referred to in subsection (a) are Lots 5 and 6, less the North 27 feet of Lot 5, Block 22, of the Original Townsite of Eunice, generally depicted as "Proposed Disposal Area" on the map.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

SEC. 4. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS.

Upon the conveyance to the City of the land described in section 3(b), the boundary of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve shall be adjusted to exclude—

(1) the conveyed land; and

(2) Lots 7 and 8 of the Original Townsite of Eunice generally depicted as "Non-NPS in Current Boundary" on the map.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3197, the Save the Liberty Theatre Act introduced by my colleague Representative MIKE JOHNSON.

This bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey a small piece of the historic Liberty Theatre to the city of Eunice, Louisiana. Although the theater is owned and operated by the city, it is adjacent to the Prairie Arcadian Cultural Center, which is owned by the National Park Service as a unit of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park.

In the 1980s, the Park Service ended up building an annex to the theater in order to construct an ADA compliant ramp and to house an air conditioning system for the two buildings. Now, the city of Eunice plans to build its own HVAC system. Consolidation of the property is a win-win: It will allow rehabilitation of the Liberty Theatre to move forward and decrease operating costs for the National Park Service.

This is a commonsense piece of legislation, and I am pleased to support it today. I thank Representative JOHNSON for bringing this bill forward and bringing it to our attention, and I urge our colleagues to support the passage today.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I also rise in support, along with Chairman GRIJALVA, of H.R. 3197, the Save the Liberty Theatre Act, offered by Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.

Mr. JOHNSON's bill transfers a federally owned annex to the city of Eunice, Louisiana, so the city can complete critical renovations to the historic Liberty Theatre.

Transferring this annex will allow the park to replace the HVAC system in the adjacent Prairie Arcadian Cultural Center and allow the city of Eunice to install a new HVAC system in the theater and perform other renovations that are currently hindered due to the National Park Services' ownership interest. This transfer will result

in cost savings for the National Park Service and the taxpayer.

Madam Speaker, I commend Mr. JOHNSON for his work to save this important Louisiana landmark and building local support for his legislation. I urge adoption of the measure, and I hope that the Senate will take up this bill very soon.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3197.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. 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.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

DESIGNATION OF EL PASO COMMUNITY HEALING GARDEN NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4380) to designate the El Paso Community Healing Garden National Memorial, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4380

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF EL PASO COMMUNITY HEALING GARDEN NATIONAL MEMORIAL.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Healing Garden located at 6900 Delta Drive, El Paso, Texas, is designated as the “El Paso Community Healing Garden National Memorial”.

(b) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION.—The national memorial designated by this section is not a unit of the National Park System and the designation of the El Paso Community Healing Garden National Memorial shall not require or authorize Federal funds to be expended for any purpose related to that national memorial.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4380, a bill to designate the El Paso Community Healing Garden National Memorial, introduced by my colleague, Representative VERONICA ESCOBAR.

On August 3, 2019, El Paso, Texas, was the target of a horrific domestic terrorist attack that took 23 lives, injured another 23 people, and devastated communities across the Nation.

The mass shooting occurred at a Walmart Supercenter on the east side of El Paso and is arguably the deadliest targeted attack against Latinos in modern American history.

Following the attack, the county of El Paso approved the construction of the El Paso Community Healing Garden to provide the community with a space to honor victims and survivors and to heal.

My heart goes out to all the victims of this horrific attack. While I know there is nothing we can do to turn back the clock, I hope that our efforts to recognize this site as a national memorial will help bring some solace and healing to the community.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representative ESCOBAR for championing this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, along with Chairman GRIJALVA, I rise in support of H.R. 4380, which would designate the El Paso Healing Garden in El Paso, Texas, as a national memorial.

On August 3, 2019, 23 people tragically lost their lives and more than 20 were injured when a gunman opened fire at a Walmart in El Paso. In 2020, the county of El Paso approved the construction of the El Paso Community Healing Garden to provide a space to honor victims and survivors and aid in the healing process.

I hope that the El Paso Healing Garden will continue to bring peace and comfort to the families who lost loved ones in this senseless and horrific attack.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR), the sponsor of the legislation.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong and enthusiastic support of my bill, H.R. 4380, the El Paso Community Healing Garden National Memorial Act.

My bill will designate the El Paso Healing Garden at Ascarate Park in El Paso, Texas, as a national memorial, and help ensure that our entire country honors the 23 innocent lives we lost in

the attack on El Paso on August 3, 2019.

I rise today for my legislation, but I also rise in memory of the 23 souls who were killed by a domestic terrorist. I rise for the 22 other victims who were injured in the attack. I rise for their loved ones—their families, friends, and for an entire community rocked by white supremacy.

On the morning of August 3, 2019, a 21-year-old gunman drove more than 11 hours and hundreds of miles to get to El Paso. He used an AK-47 and opened fire at a busy Walmart while families were shopping for groceries, getting their prescriptions filled, and buying school supplies for their children. He killed couples, grandparents, siblings, brand new parents. His youngest victim was just 15 years old. It was the deadliest targeted attack on Latinos in modern American history.

The weapon he used wasn't just intended to kill—an AK-47 rips flesh, bones, and arteries to shreds. Most of the survivors from the attack don't just live with the scars that we can't see in front of us, but they live with unbelievable physical agony, and they also have to shoulder the financial consequences of ongoing surgeries and medical care, even years later.

When he turned himself in, the domestic terrorist confessed to police that he drove to El Paso to slaughter Mexicans and immigrants. He published a screed online just before the massacre, and in it he cited the anti-immigrant Great Replacement theory and xenophobic hate speech, claiming that he was combating what he called the "Hispanic invasion of Texas."

This is the same language, these are the same theories, the same hate and racism that we still hear today from rightwing public figures and the former President, whose favorite scapegoats are still vulnerable immigrants.

These people should have seen that their words have power. Unfortunately, however, instead of learning from this tragedy, racists and supremacists have grown more emboldened. And why wouldn't they? They are radicalized nightly by a national media outlet disguised as "news" that runs unchecked, their talking points openly parroted by leaders here, in the Halls of Congress.

Our safe, loving, welcoming community, a community of good will, is seen as a threat by people with hate in their heart. The language of hate draws a target on the backs of the most vulnerable. On August 3, El Paso paid the price.

El Pasoans, however, came together in the immediate aftermath of this shooting and we did what we do best: take care of each other, stand united, stand in love. We represent the best of America, and El Pasoans continue to be a source of great hope for me.

El Paso is strong. We are resilient. But we deserve justice and recognition. I am honored to help ensure that what happened in El Paso is not forgotten, not anywhere, not in any corner of this

country. That we remember every victim and we work to prevent more tragedy.

Madam Speaker, I will close by sharing the names of the victims:

Andre Pablo Anchondo, Jordan Kae Anchondo, Arturo Benavides, Jorge Calvillo Garcia, Leonardo Campos, Jr., Maribel Hernandez-Loya, Adolfo Cerros Hernandez, Sara Esther Regalado Monreal, Guillermo "Coach Memo" Garcia, Angelina Silva Englisbee, Maria Munoz Flores, Raul Estrada Flores, Gerhard Alexander Hoffmann, David Alvah Johnson, Luis Alfonso Juarez, Maria Eugenia Legarreta Rothe, Ivan Manzano, Gloria Irma Marquez, Elsa L. Mendoza, Margie Reckard, Javier Amir Rodriguez, Teresa Trinidad Sanchez Guerra, and Juan De Dios Velazquez.

May they rest in peace, may their families find comfort, and may our country learn from this tragedy.

□ 1530

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, again, I support this bipartisan bill. It is unfortunate that with regard to something that had so much agreement on it that people would point fingers at political figures or political movements and try to assign the actions of a disturbed, radical individual to a political party or to a political figure.

Madam Speaker, I do support this, I wish that the debate hadn't gone in this direction, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO).

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, the gun violence epidemic has horribly impacted American communities across the Nation. Texas is no exception, and neither was El Paso.

In 2019 the El Paso community was shaken to its core when a crazed gunman drove more than 11 hours to stop what he called the "Hispanic invasion of Texas."

All of us know that his hatred and bigotry was encouraged from the highest levels of our government and played upon stereotypes developed in American media from hard news to Hollywood for generations.

This appalling event led to 23 innocent lives being cut short and dozens injured in the deadliest targeted attack on Latinos in modern American history.

But El Paso did not collapse in the face of tragedy. Instead, they banded together to mourn their loved ones and rebuild their community, and we, as Americans, stood with them. That summer we were all "El Paso strong."

By designating the El Paso Community Healing Garden as a federally recognized national memorial site, we will continue to honor the victims and provide solace to survivors who have shown their remarkable strength and resiliency on their path to healing.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support my friend, Representative ESCOBAR's,

bill, H.R. 4380, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me the time.

I rise in strong commitment and recognition of this healing garden legislation, H.R. 4380, and I thank my colleagues, Congresswoman ESCOBAR, whose legislation it is, Congressmen CASTRO and GRIJALVA, and the gentleman from Arkansas for recognizing, first of all, that we stand united in the acknowledgment of the pain and violence that these families experienced and the tragedy of someone coming to target innocent families and children and bestowing upon innocent persons that they were invading this country, this country who has the Statute of Liberty that says bring us your tired and your weary.

I want to congratulate Congresswoman ESCOBAR for the leadership that she gave and the strength that she showed. I saw her as I traveled to El Paso. She truly exhibited "El Paso strong" as so many of us came to mourn with her. We were broken, but we were resolved that we would never stand for this again. It was a terrorist act, and it was against people simply because of their race and their ethnic background.

I visited those in the hospital who were wounded, some of whom died later. I attended funerals where families lost mothers and fathers. I will never forget this enormous and devastating tragedy and the viciousness of this act.

So I rise to support this legislation, to say never again, and to thank Congresswoman ESCOBAR for reminding us that we are Americans and this violence and this hatefulness will not stand. We ask those in leadership positions to not call names of people who are of backgrounds they don't understand.

Let us stand in prayer and unity for the families in El Paso.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, again, I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for helping bring this to the floor.

Representative ESCOBAR's particular piece of legislation is not merely a reminder or a political statement. It is a memorial, an acknowledgment of a tragedy, and an acknowledgment of the need for reconciliation, the need for healing, the need for understanding, and the need to have the conversations as communities that we need to have so that if we do nothing else to prevent this kind of deranged violence, we can at least begin to heal and talk about the issue in a way that maybe reaches

part of that end to reduce this kind of violence and violence in general.

I speak from limited experience but vital experience. Our former colleague, Representative Giffords, was in an attempted assassination. Six people died at the Congress on Your Corner where she would hold events for people to come and talk to her about the issues facing our Nation and facing the district, that unique ability of this democracy of ours for their elected officials to be accessible to the public that they represent.

She was shot, almost died, and survived, and we have a memorial to that event in Tucson. It has proven to be a rallying point, it has proven to be a great instrument for nonviolence, and it is a forum for discussion and growth, the growth of tolerance and understanding in Tucson, Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this legislation, I thank the ranking member for his leadership, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4380.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HARRIS. 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.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

UPPER COLORADO AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS RECOVERY ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5001) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to continue to implement endangered fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5001

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 "Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins Recovery Act".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS RELATED TO FISH RECOVERY PROGRAMS.

Section 3 of Public Law 106-392 (114 Stat. 1603 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking "2023" each place it appears and inserting "2024";

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking "\$179,000,000" and inserting "\$184,000,000";

(3) in subsection (b)(2) by striking "\$30,000,000" and inserting "\$25,000,000";

(4) in subsection (h), by striking " , at least 1 year prior to such expiration,"; and

(5) in subsection (j), by striking "2021" each place it appears and inserting "2022".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5001, introduced by my Natural Resources Committee colleague, Representative JOE NEGUSE of Colorado. This bipartisan bill will reauthorize two programs that are working to recover threatened and endangered fish in the Upper Colorado River Basin.

This legislation will continue the collaboration work of Tribes, water users, environmental groups, local utilities, and State and Federal agencies that are partnering to recover four fish species currently listed under the Endangered Species Act as either threatened or endangered.

These programs provide Endangered Species Act compliance for projects that use water resources from the San Juan River and Upper Colorado River Basins, so that these rare native fish can be recovered while human water use can continue.

With the conservation actions undertaken through the recovery programs, one fish was downlisted from endangered to threatened last year, and another fish is under consideration for downlisting to threatened as well. This good work is important, and it should continue.

I want to commend my colleague, the chair of the National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Subcommittee, Representative NEGUSE, for his leadership on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 5001 would extend the Upper Colorado and San Juan recovery implementation programs and their reporting requirements for an additional year.

The programs provide Endangered Species Act compliance for more than 2,500 water and power projects that withdraw more than 3.7 million-acre feet of water for human needs.

The program's goals are to recover four endangered fish species while continuing facility operations with the ultimate goal of species delisting. Last

year, the Fish and Wildlife Service reclassified one of these species, the humpback chub, from endangered to threatened, and proposed a similar reclassification for the razorback sucker.

Madam Speaker, if it has razorback in the name, it has to be important, and we need to take care of it.

Current law required the Secretary of the Interior to submit a report to Congress by September 30, 2021, on recommendations for the programs post 2023. Unfortunately, the Department of the Interior failed to meet this deadline. As such we are here today extending the programs by 1 year in order to give the administration enough time to complete the report.

While I support the extension today, I want to be clear that any further extension of the programs will require an in-depth discussion of the programs' goals, achievements, and administrative overhead costs.

In closing, Madam Speaker, again, I support this bill, I support the razorback sucker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, it is good to know that the ranking member has a weakness, and so we are going to put razorback in every piece of legislation from now on.

Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5001, "the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins Recovery Act" which extends through FY2024 the authority of the Department of the Interior to implement construction of facilities for the endangered fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River basins. The bill also extends through FY2022 the deadline for the submission of the report on the recovery implementation programs.

The Upper Colorado River Basin is home to 14 native fish species, including the endangered humpback chub, bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow, and razorback sucker. These endangered fish are found only in the Colorado River system.

The Recovery Program is a unique partnership of local, state, and federal agencies, water and power interests, and environmental groups working to recover endangered fish in the Upper Colorado River Basin while water development proceeds in accordance with federal and state laws and interstate compacts.

The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program was first established in 1988 to help bring four species of endangered fish back from the brink of extinction: the humpback chub, bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow, and razorback sucker.

This bill will protect those 14 endangered fish species in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin and allow critical water infrastructure projects to continue.

The Colorado River provides water to nearly 40 million people, flows through 9 National Parks, and drives a \$1.4 trillion economy. If the Colorado River basin were a country, it would be the world's 7th largest by economic output.

On average, 90 percent of streamflow in the Colorado River Basin originates in the Upper

Basin, which is the area above Lees Ferry, Arizona. This water has a multitude of uses that include irrigation, municipal and industrial purposes, mining activities, recreation, and supporting habitat for livestock, fish and wildlife.

The Colorado River Basin also has an immense capacity to generate hydropower. Hundreds of hydroelectric dams along the river's main stem and tributaries have a combined generating capacity of approximately 4,178 megawatts, making it part of the solution for combatting climate change.

But the river is stretched to its limit. Climate change and increasing water demand due to an expanding population is and will continue present significant challenges that if left unaddressed, will impact regional and national economies, degrade the environment, challenge agricultural heritage and food production, and limit recreational opportunities from fishing and boating to skiing.

Protecting this river basin and its biodiversity is therefore of the utmost importance. Without its biodiversity, this river basin will be thrown out of equilibrium and cease to function and subsequently provide as it has for centuries.

This would create a humanitarian disaster for 40 million people and economic disaster for countless more, in addition to the loss of incomparable natural beauty and endangered life.

However, under the leadership of Secretary Deb Haaland, whom I hold in the highest regard, I am certain that these 14 species of fish and in turn the Colorado River Basin can be saved, averting unquestionable disaster for millions.

This Act is common sense, bipartisan, and ultimately needed legislation that I am proud to support. It is for that reason that I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5001, The Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins Recovery Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5001, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HARRIS. 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.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

□ 1545

JAPANESE AMERICAN WORLD WAR II HISTORY NETWORK ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6434) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish, within the National Park Service, the Japanese American World War II History Network, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6434

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 "Japanese American World War II History Network Act".

SEC. 2. JAPANESE AMERICAN WORLD WAR II HISTORY NETWORK.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") shall establish, within the National Park Service, a program to be known as the "Japanese American World War II History Network" (hereinafter referred to as the "Network").

(b) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—In carrying out the Network, the Secretary shall—

(1) review studies and reports to complement and not duplicate studies of Japanese American World War II history and Japanese American experiences during World War II, including studies related to relocation centers and confinement sites, that are underway or completed;

(2) produce and disseminate appropriate educational materials, such as handbooks, maps, interpretive guides, or electronic information relating to Japanese American World War II history and Japanese American experiences during the war, including relocation centers and confinement sites;

(3) enter into appropriate cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding to provide technical assistance under subsection (c); and

(4)(A) create and adopt an official, uniform symbol or device for the Network; and

(B) issue regulations for the use of the symbol or device adopted under subparagraph (A).

(c) ELEMENTS.—The Network shall encompass the following elements:

(1) All units and programs of the National Park Service that are determined by the Secretary to relate to Japanese American World War II history and Japanese American experiences during the war, including relocation centers and confinement sites.

(2) With the consent of the property owner, other Federal, State, local, Tribal, and privately owned properties that—

(A) relate to Japanese American World War II history and Japanese experiences during the war, including relocation centers and confinement sites;

(B) have a verifiable connection to Japanese American World War II history and Japanese experiences during the war, including relocation and confinement sites; and

(C) are included in, or determined by the Secretary to be eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places.

(3) Other governmental and nongovernmental facilities and programs of an educational, research, or interpretive nature that are directly related to Japanese American World War II history and the experiences of Japanese Americans during the war, including relocation centers and confinement sites.

SEC. 3. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.

To achieve the purposes of this Act and to ensure effective coordination of the Federal and non-Federal elements of the Network described in section 2(c) with units of the National Park System and programs of the National Park Service, including the Japanese American Confinement Sites Program, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding with, and provide technical assistance to the heads of other Federal agencies, States, units of local government, Tribes, regional governmental bodies, and private entities.

SEC. 4. SUNSET.

The authority of the Secretary under this Act shall expire 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material for the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6434, the Japanese American World War II History Network Act, introduced by my Natural Resources Committee colleague, Representative JAY OBERNOLTE.

This bill will direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Japanese American World War II History Network within the National Park Service.

Between 1942 and 1945, the U.S. Government wrongfully imprisoned approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans, most of whom were U.S. citizens. Many of the U.S. Government's activities during World War II were done in secrecy and were not accurately represented to the public in the years after the war.

Designating this network will support education and awareness of the people, places, and events that were associated with the wrongful incarceration of Japanese Americans.

This effort will be a welcome complement to the existing Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program, which we are looking to reauthorize and strengthen today through Representative MATSU's legislation, which we considered earlier this afternoon.

I thank Representative OBERNOLTE for championing this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6434, offered by my committee colleague, Mr. OBERNOLTE of California, to establish a Japanese American World War II History Network within the National Park Service.

As Chairman GRIJALVA stated, this bill is complementary to the previous bill we considered today with the JACS program in it.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, tens of thousands of Japanese Americans were forcibly removed from the West Coast to relocation centers across the United States. Japanese

Americans were imprisoned without trial and forced to relocate to some of the most remote areas of our country, with few personal belongings. My State of Arkansas was home to two relocation camps, Rohwer in Desha County and Jerome in Chicot and Drew Counties.

Mr. OBERNOLTE's bill, which I have proudly cosponsored, would establish a cohesive national network to increase the visibility of all sites related to the Japanese American experience during World War II. The network will be similar to existing networks established in recent years to connect sites associated with the Underground Railroad, the Reconstruction era, and the African American civil rights movement.

At the legislative hearing, Mr. Bruce Saito, chair of the Friends of Manzanar, testified about this critical network, saying: "We must continue to strengthen the network and continue to connect the dots through the network so this tragic and very important lesson in history is never forgotten."

The new network will be an important tool to ensure that this history, no matter how painful it may be, is always remembered, and the important stories of interned Japanese Americans are told with honor and respect.

In addition to the Friends of Manzanar, we have received letters of support from the Amache Preservation Society, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, the National Japanese American Historical Society, and the Arkansas Historical Preservation Program.

I commend Mr. OBERNOLTE for his work on this important legislation that will help future generations learn from and reflect on the experiences of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for his support, and I thank Mr. OBERNOLTE for introducing the legislation. I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. OBERNOLTE, our colleague on the committee, and Ms. MATSUI, a former colleague on the committee, for two pieces of very important legislation that look at the realism that we need to look at in terms of our history as a Nation. They are complementary and good pieces of legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6434.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HARRIS. 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.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VEASEY) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

MODERNIZING ACCESS TO OUR PUBLIC LAND ACT

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. 3113) to require the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation, and for other purposes, as amended, 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 gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 9, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 71]

YEAS—414

Adams	Bishop (NC)	Cárdenas	Cohen	Hill	Moolenaar
Aderholt	Blumenauer	Carey	Cole	Himes	Mooney
Aguilar	Blunt Rochester	Carl	Comer	Hinson	Moore (AL)
Allen	Boebert	Carson	Connolly	Hollingsworth	Moore (UT)
Allred	Bonamici	Carter (GA)	Cooper	Horsford	Moore (WI)
Amodei	Bost	Carter (LA)	Correa	Houlihan	Morelle
Armstrong	Bourdeaux	Carter (TX)	Costa	Hoyer	Moulton
Arrington	Bowman	Cartwright	Courtney	Hudson	Mrvan
Auchincloss	Boyle, Brendan	Case	Craig	Huizenga	Murphy (FL)
Axne	F.	Casten	Crawford	Issa	Murphy (NC)
Babin	Brady	Castor (FL)	Crenshaw	Jackson	Nadler
Bacon	Brooks	Castro (TX)	Crist	Jackson Lee	Napolitano
Baird	Brown (MD)	Cawthorn	Crow	Jacobs (CA)	Neal
Balderson	Brown (OH)	Chabot	Cuellar	Jacobs (NY)	Neguse
Banks	Brownley	Cheney	Curtis	Jayapal	Nehls
Barr	Buchanan	Cherfilus-McCormick	Davids (KS)	Jeffries	Newhouse
Barragán	Buck	Chu	Davidson	Johnson (GA)	Newman
Bass	Buchson	Cicilline	Davis, Danny K.	Johnson (LA)	Norcross
Beatty	Burchett	Clark (MA)	Davis, Rodney	Johnson (OH)	O'Halleran
Bentz	Burgess	Clarke (NY)	Dean	Johnson (SD)	Obernolte
Bera	Bush	Cleaver	DeFazio	Johnson (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez
Bergman	Bustos	Cline	DeGette	Jones	Omar
Beyer	Butterfield	Cloud	DeLauro	Jordan	Owens
Bice (OK)	Calvert	Clyburn	DelBene	Joyce (OH)	Palazzo
Bilirakis	Cammack	Clyde	Delgado	Joyce (PA)	Pallone
Bishop (GA)	Carbajal		Demings	Kahele	Palmer
			DeSaulnier	Kaptur	Panetta
			DesJarlais	Katko	Pappas
			Deutch	Keating	Pascarell
			Diaz-Balart	Keller	Payne
			Dingell	Kelly (IL)	Pence
			Doggett	Kelly (MS)	Perlmutter
			Donalds	Kelly (PA)	Peters
			Doyle, Michael	Khanna	Pfleger
			F.	Kildee	Phillips
			Duncan	Kilmer	Pingree
			Dunn	Kim (CA)	Pocan
			Ellzey	Kim (NJ)	Porter
			Emmer	Kind	Posey
			Escobar	Kirkpatrick	Pressley
			Eshoo	Krishnamoorthi	Price (NC)
			Espallat	Kuster	Quigley
			Estes	Kustoff	Raskin
			Evans	LaHood	Reed
			Fallon	LaMalfa	Reschenthaler
			Feenstra	Lamb	Rice (NY)
			Ferguson	Lamborn	Rice (SC)
			Fischbach	Langevin	Rodgers (WA)
			Fitzgerald	Larsen (WA)	Rogers (AL)
			Fitzpatrick	Larson (CT)	Rogers (KY)
			Fleischmann	Latta	Rose
			Fletcher	LaTurner	Rosendale
			Fortenberry	Lawrence	Ross
			Foster	Lawson (FL)	Rouzer
			Fox	Lee (CA)	Roybal-Allard
			Frankel, Lois	Lee (NV)	Ruiz
			Franklin, C.	Leger Fernandez	Ruppersberger
			Scott	Lesko	Rush
			Fulcher	Letlow	Rutherford
			Gaetz	Levin (CA)	Ryan
			Gallagher	Levin (MI)	Salazar
			Gallego	Lieu	Sánchez
			Garamendi	Lofgren	Sarbanes
			Garbarino	Long	Scalise
			Garcia (CA)	Loudermilk	Scanlon
			Garcia (IL)	Lowenthal	Schakowsky
			Garcia (TX)	Lucas	Schiff
			Gibbs	Luetkemeyer	Schneider
			Gimenez	Luria	Schrader
			Gohmert	Lynch	Schrier
			Golden	Mace	Schweikert
			Gomez	Malinowski	Scott (VA)
			Gonzales, Tony	Malliotakis	Scott, Austin
			Gonzalez,	Maloney,	Scott, David
			Vicente	Carolyn B.	Sessions
				Maloney, Sean	Sewell
			Gooden (TX)	Mann	Sherman
			Gosar	Manning	Simpson
			Gottheimer	Mast	Sires
			Granger	Matsui	Slotkin
			Graves (LA)	McBath	Smith (MO)
			Graves (MO)	McCarthy	Smith (NE)
			Green (TN)	McCaul	Smith (NJ)
			Green, Al (TX)	McClain	Smith (WA)
			Greene (GA)	McClintock	Smucker
			Griffith	McCollum	Soto
			Grijalva	McEachin	Spanberger
			Grothman	McGovern	Spartz
			Guest	McHenry	Speier
			Guthrie	McKinley	Stansbury
			Harder (CA)	McNerney	Stanton
			Harris	Meeks	Staub
			Harshbarger	Meijer	Steel
			Hartzler	Meng	Stefanik
			Hayes	Meuser	Steil
			Hern	Mfume	Steube
			Herrell	Miller (IL)	Stevens
			Herrera Beutler	Miller (WV)	Stewart
			Higgins (LA)	Miller-Meeks	Strickland
			Higgins (NY)		

Suozi
Swalwell
Takano
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
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman
Schultz
Watson Coleman

NAYS—9

Biggs
Good (VA)
Hice (GA)

Massie
Norman
Perry

Roy
Taylor
Weber (TX)

NOT VOTING—9

Budd
Gonzalez (OH)
Huffman

Kinzingner
Mullin
Sherrill

Vela
Waters
Young

□ 1907

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, 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

Bourdeaux (Correa)	Harder (CA) (Beyer)	Neguse (Perlmutter)
Bowman (Meng)	Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)	Pascrell (Pallone)
Cárdenas (Gomez)	Kahele (Mrvan) Kaptur	Payne (Pallone) Phillips
Carter (TX) (Nehls)	(Lawrence)	(Scanlon)
Connolly (Wexton)	Kildee (Butterfield)	Porter (Wexton) Rice (SC)
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)	Kim (NJ) (Pallone)	(Arrington) Roybal-Allard
Cuellar (Green (TX))	Kirkpatrick (Pallone)	(Escobar)
Dean (Scanlon)	Lamb (Beyer)	Ryan (Beyer)
DeLauro (Courtney)	Lawson (FL) (Evans)	Salazar (McClain)
DeSaulnier (Beyer)	Lesko (Joyce (PA))	Schrier (Jeffries) Sires (Pallone)
DesJarlais (Fleischmann)	Lofgren (Jeffries) Luetkemeyer	Suozi (Beyer) Titus (Cicilline)
Fortenberry (Moolenaar)	(Meuser)	Trone (Beyer)
Garamendi (Correa)	McHenry (Cammack)	Upton (Katko) Watson Coleman
Gimenez (Waltz)	McNerney (Correa)	(Pallone)
Golden (Delgado)	Miller (WV) (Walorski)	Welch (Pallone) Wilson (FL)
Granger (Van Duyne)	Neal (Beyer)	(Cicilline)

UPPER COLORADO AND SAN JUAN
RIVER BASINS RECOVERY ACT

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. 5001) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to continue to implement endangered fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins, and for other purposes, as amended, 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 gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 27, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 72]

YEAS—397

Adams Aderholt Aguiar Allred Amodei Armstrong Arrington Auchincloss Axne Babin Bacon Baird Balderson Banks Barr Barragán Bass Beatty Bentz Bera Bergman Beyer Bice (OK) Bilirakis Bishop (GA) Bishop (NC) Blumenauer Blunt Rochester Boebert Bonamici Bost Bordeaux Bowman Boyle, Brendan F. Brady Brooks Brown (MD) Brown (OH) Brownley Buchanan Buck Buchon Burchett 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 Clyburn Clyde Cohen Cole Comer Connolly Cooper Correa Costa Courtney Craig Crawford Crenshaw Crist Crow Cuellar Curtis Davids (KS) Davidson Davis, Danny K. Davis, Rodney Dean DeFazio DeGette	DeLauro DelBene Delgado Demings DeSaulnier DesJarlais Deutch Diaz-Balart Dingell Donalds Doyle, Michael F. Duncan Dunn Ellzey Emmer Escobar Eshoo Español Estes Evans 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 Gottheimer Granger Graves (LA) Graves (MO) Green (TN) Green, Al (TX) Griffith Grijalva Grothman Guest Guthrie Harder (CA) Hayes Hern Herrell Herrera Beutler Hice (GA) Higgins (NY) Hill Himes Horsford Houlahan Hoyer Hudson Huffman Huizenga Issa Jackson 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 Kirkpatrick Krishnamoorthi Kuster Kustoff LaHood LaMalfa Lamb Lamborn Langevin Larsen (WA) Larson (CT) Latta LaTurner Lawrence Lawson (FL) Lee (CA) Lee (NV) Leger Fernandez 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 (WV) Miller-Meeks Moolenaar Mooney Moore (AL) Moore (UT) Moore (WI) Morelle Moulton Mrvan Murphy (FL) Murphy (NC) Nadler Napolitano Neal Neguse Nehls Newhouse Newman Norcross O'Halleran Oberholte Ocasio-Cortez Omar Owens Palazzo Pallone Palmer Panetta
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Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
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
Sewell
Sherman
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
Suozi
Swalwell
Takano
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus

NAYS—27

Allen Biggs Burgess Cline Cloud Fallon Good (VA) Gooden (TX) Gosar	Greene (GA) Harris Harshbarger Hartzler Higgins (LA) Hinson Hollingsworth Lesko Massie	Miller (IL) Norman Perry Rice (SC) Rosendale Roy Sessions Taylor Weber (TX)
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NOT VOTING—8

Budd Doggett Gonzalez (OH)	Kinzingner Mullin Reed	Sherrill Vela
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□ 1924

Mr. BABIN changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, 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

Bourdeaux (Correa)	Golden (Delgado) Granger (Van Duyne)	McNerney (Correa)
Bowman (Meng)	Harder (CA) (Beyer)	Miller (WV) (Walorski)
Cárdenas (Gomez)	Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)	Neal (Beyer) Neguse
Carter (TX) (Nehls)	Kahele (Mrvan) Kaptur	(Perlmutter)
Connolly (Wexton)	(Lawrence)	Pascrell (Pallone)
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)	Kildee (Butterfield)	Payne (Pallone) Phillips
Cuellar (Green (TX))	Kim (NJ) (Pallone)	(Scanlon)
Dean (Scanlon)	Kirkpatrick (Pallone)	Porter (Wexton) Rice (SC)
DeLauro (Courtney)	Lamb (Beyer)	(Arrington)
DeSaulnier	Lawson (FL) (Evans)	Roybal-Allard (Escobar)
DesJarlais (Fleischmann)	Lesko (Joyce (PA))	Ryan (Beyer) Salazar
Fortenberry (Moolenaar)	Lofgren (Jeffries) Luetkemeyer	(McClain) Schrier (Jeffries)
Garamendi (Correa)	(Meuser)	Sires (Pallone)
Gimenez (Waltz)	McHenry (Cammack)	Suozi (Beyer) Titus (Cicilline)

Trone (Beyer) Watson Coleman Wilson (FL)
 Upton (Katko) (Pallone) (Cicilline)
 Welch (Pallone)

ABORTION PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Abortion Provider Appreciation Day.

In March of 1993, Dr. David Gunn was killed outside his abortion clinic by a white supremacist, anti-abortion extremist. To honor his legacy, this day was established.

Last week, his children, David, Jr., and Wendy, joined a deeply moving press conference to celebrate the essential, compassionate, necessary healthcare providers deliver courageously, despite pressures, restrictions, political interference, and violent threats to their personal safety.

I want to recognize two incredible abortion providers and tireless advocates in my district, Renee Chelian, the founder of Northland Family Planning, and her daughter Lara, and the work these women do in our communities to make reproductive healthcare accessible to all.

I urge my colleagues to join in this important affirmation of Congress' commitment to abortion providers.

CELEBRATING SAVANNAH STATE'S MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the tremendous season of the Savannah State University men's basketball team.

The upset-minded Tigers have won their first Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship title since 1981.

Topping off a four-game win streak with a conference championship victory, the Tigers went into the SIAC championship game as the underdog against Benedict College.

This historic team struggled throughout the season, entering the post-season 11-13, but came together as a team and found a way to win when it mattered most.

I am so proud of the team that Head Coach Horace Broadnax has put together at Savannah State University. He is helping these young men unlock their full athletic potential.

The season is not over, as the Tigers are now preparing for their shot at the NCAA Division II National Tournament. This has not been an easy season by any means, but the Tigers have momentum and drive to keep them moving forward.

Gentlemen, good luck in the tournament.

DELIVERING RESULTS FOR THE PEOPLE

(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. Madam Speaker, in just the last few weeks, Congress has sent a number of critical bills to President Biden's desk.

This includes legislation to finally make lynching a Federal hate crime, after more than 200 attempts across a century.

It includes sweeping legislation to reform and repair the Postal Service, ensuring every American gets their mail on time.

And it includes the government funding bill signed into law by the President today. The law reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act, sends critical aid to Ukraine, cuts childcare and education costs for families, supports our veterans, launches President Biden's Cancer Moonshot initiative, and so much more.

What is more, this flurry of activity comes on top of the historic bipartisan infrastructure law.

Together with President Biden, we are delivering results for the people—results not rhetoric, solutions not sound bites, headway not headlines.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL K9 VETERANS DAY

(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. Madam Speaker, over the weekend, we celebrated National K9 Veterans Day. This day is set to honor the service and sacrifice of American military and working dogs throughout history.

Military working dogs are vital to our military missions. Dogs can help sense incoming artillery, locate wounded soldiers, deliver messages between troops, and provide a much-needed morale boost on the front line.

The original war dog is Sergeant Stubby, the most decorated war dog of World War I. He saw four offensives and 17 battles. Despite numerous injuries, he always returned to his regiment.

Stubby's ability to warn of poison gas attacks, locate wounded soldiers, and alert his unit to incoming artillery shells ultimately earned him the rank of sergeant.

Madam Speaker, we recognize our military working dogs on March 13 because on that day in 1942, the U.S. K9 Corps was officially created.

Today, there are more than 3,000 military working dogs deployed around the globe. They are trained to perform a wide variety of critical and often dangerous tasks.

Their work to support our service-members and service to our country should not go unrecognized.

FUNDING COMMUNITY PROJECTS

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Madam Speaker, last week, Congress passed the comprehensive bipartisan government funding bill that, for the first time in over a decade, delivered direct relief to community funding projects.

In my district, I worked with local and State elected officials, city and town managers, nonprofit organizations, and community and business leaders to identify top infrastructure, social services, and healthcare projects in need of Federal investment.

I thank the Appropriations Committee for fully funding all of these requests, which included a new workforce development institute for offshore wind, the expansion of a domestic violence shelter and a community health center, multiple projects to provide clean water for my constituents, dam and dredging improvements to protect against flooding disasters, and a project to support economic development.

This funding bill represents a shift in Congress toward partnerships, good policy, and action. We must work to further advance bipartisan progress in the years ahead.

CONTROLLING THE SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, last week, I joined several of my Republican colleagues on an official trip to view the southern border in Arizona.

We received an operational briefing from the Border Patrol stationed in Yuma and toured their processing center. We also went on field trips to see the halted construction of the border wall and a staging site used by cartels for smuggling children across the border.

I was horrified by what I saw. When President Biden halted construction of the border wall, he left giant strips of the border wide open for cartels to smuggle illegal drugs and even human trafficking victims into our country, women and children being abused in ways that are unimaginable.

I was appalled to learn how the cartel recycles the child victims so that they are basically the conduit to bring adults across. Then, when they are done with that child inside this country, they take them back and recycle them again through the process.

They prey on families by telling them what they think they owe to the cartel and use their children in such a way. The filth, the trash left behind, the containers of drugs and pills you find there in the arroyos, in the washes, it is horrific all the way around. We must control our border.

HOLODOMOR IN UKRAINE

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, tomorrow, we are going to be addressed by the head of state from Ukraine.

I have been talking to people—young people, students, older people—about if they know the background between those countries, specifically the Holodomor, a starvation of the Ukrainian people that took place in 1932 and 1933.

I am shocked. I bet less than 10 percent of Americans know that 4 million—4 to 15 million, but at least 4 million—Ukrainians were starved to death by the Communist government in the early 1930s.

Even less, I am sure, know that for misreporting this starvation, a guy by the name of Walter Duranty, from The New York Times, received a Pulitzer Prize for covering it up. So, this left-wing bias out of The New York Times is not something that started today. They, of course, hated the people who were starved because they were independent farmers, and the Communist Party hates independent, family-oriented people.

UNLOCKING RURAL AMERICA'S POTENTIAL

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, before I begin, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of my special order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I hope it is clear to all of my colleagues in this body that rural America faces a myriad of challenges.

Every day, members of the Congressional Western Caucus, of which I am very honored to be chairman, and many partners throughout rural America are working to ensure that local communities across the country are heard in our Nation's Capitol, right here, and that these challenges do not go unaddressed.

For many in big cities and urban areas, I think it can be pretty easy to overlook our rural communities. But we truly are the backbone of our great country, and our challenges are not our challenges alone. Rather, they are reflective of the entire Nation's challenges, things like managing public lands and fulfilling the government's multipurpose-use doctrine, or sup-

porting local economies and encouraging economic development, promoting critical infrastructure like roads and bridges and dams, ensuring a strong agricultural industry that feeds the world, and empowering the communities that we represent to embrace expanded domestic energy production and clean energy technologies.

Our State, local, and private land managers are conservation partners. Small businesses and local communities are eager to take the reins and make the improvements that we need, but they are consistently held back by bureaucratic red tape, delayed permitting processes that add years and millions of dollars in cost to projects, and outdated laws that don't take into account the best available science of modern technologies.

Over and over again, I hear from my constituents in central Washington State, and also from community leaders from across the United States, that we need to get the Federal Government out of the way.

That is why, throughout this month of March, Congressional Western Caucus members are taking the opportunity to highlight why reforming our duplicative and burdensome permitting process is the key to unlocking rural America's potential.

Madam Speaker, broken permitting systems negatively impact the progress that we could be making at nearly every step of the way. The National Environmental Policy Act, or what many refer to as NEPA, is one of the most egregious examples of a well-intentioned law turned into a bureaucratic nightmare for those of us who are working to improve the communities where we live, work, and farm.

The Endangered Species Act is another. This landmark species protection law has become outdated, and it is now used as a weapon by serial litigators and misguided environmentalists, who want nothing more than to sue and settle, wasting our limited government resources, which are stalling projects across the United States and disincentivizing investment in rural America.

Both of these laws play an important role in protecting lands, waters, and wildlife that we cherish throughout the West and across rural America. But because Congress has not been able to meaningfully reform them, they have actually begun to work against us.

ESA regulations can add decades to the permitting processes for forest management projects or projects that would help prevent catastrophic wildfires across the West.

In my own home State of Washington, and across the Pacific Northwest, the policies surrounding the northern spotted owl wreaked havoc on our forest industry, destroying—literally destroying—local economies. Now, our region experiences some of the worst wildfires in our Nation's history.

Madam Speaker, that is not a coincidence. Delays and roadblocks, and I in-

tend to insert a pun there, Madam Speaker, that are caused by NEPA regulations have slowed or completely stopped infrastructure projects like highway improvements or installation of new hydropower technologies that generate clean energy and provide increased fish passage.

Just last week, our members met with former Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt, who worked within the Trump administration to streamline inefficiencies and cut the environmental review process from 4.5 years, if you can believe that, down to no more than 2.

The Biden administration, of course, is now reversing this progress and bending to politically motivated interest groups at the expense of rural communities.

It is clear to us in the Western Caucus that it is time for Congress to act. For decades, rural America has been kept in regulatory limbo at the mercy of each changing administration.

Congress is a coequal branch of government, and we need to, we should, assert our authority to ensure that our communities have the certainty that they need to move forward on these critical projects.

Our rural communities deserve the investment and the development that is disincentivized by our broken permitting processes.

I know we have Western Caucus members here today who will help shed some light on some of these examples in their home districts, in their States. We will continue to demonstrate the harmful impacts of the status quo and outline our vision for a future that empowers rural Americans to tackle our challenges head-on.

I am very happy to have a group of colleagues here who are very interested in this topic, and I will first turn to Mr. BRUCE WESTERMAN, who is the vice chair of the Western Caucus, one of my vice chairs, but also the ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee.

I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN).

□ 1945

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and also for his leadership in the Western Caucus and on these important issues that mean a lot to places like the Fourth District of Arkansas, to all over rural America, where out-of-touch policies in D.C. have a negative impact on people's daily lives, and just being able to earn a living, to pay their taxes, and to provide the goods and services that the rest of the world needs. So I appreciate you hosting this Special Order.

For years, it has been clear to rural America that our Federal permitting and environmental review processes are broken. While well-intentioned, they are doing more harm than good. The current system is complex, burdensome, and ineffective, yet the political

elite in Washington, D.C., wonder why our farmers, ranchers, and energy producers struggle.

Far-left special interest groups have weaponized, as Mr. NEWHOUSE said, well-intentioned laws like the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act, and they use them as clubs to bludgeon or kill critical infrastructure, natural resource management, and energy and minerals development projects across the United States.

Delays in environmental regulatory systems are especially acute. In 2020, the Council on Environmental Quality showed that the average time for a Federal agency to complete a final environmental impact statement through the NEPA process—again, Mr. NEWHOUSE quoted this number—is 4½ years. But that is the average number. One-quarter of all projects took over 6 years to complete. That is more than red tape. That is a roadblock. That is why Republicans support the BUILDER Act to streamline the NEPA process and benefit communities looking to improve infrastructure investment.

My district, like many others in the Western Caucus, is built on the agriculture industry, and I hear over and over from hardworking Arkansans who are simply trying to make a living through the sludge of government regulation. Overregulation and stalled regulation ensures that only the biggest businesses have the money and time to navigate the red tape and hire the lawyers that are needed to even attempt to navigate the process. This is the kind of Big Government that puts local, small operators out of business. It stamps out small business operators and honest competition in one fell swoop.

The message from rural America is clear: Government needs to get out of the way. More than that, government needs to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. I think government has forgotten that it is the government of the people, by the people, and for the people, and that if you work for the government, you work for the people. It is not the other way around.

There is no doubt that we should be good stewards of our environment and communities, but too often the free market, unburdened by government, is seen as the enemy of both. This is simply false. Streamlining a permitting process shouldn't be partisan, political, or picking sides. It can be a win for the environment, the economy, and our communities simultaneously. We do not need to choose just one. In fact, a healthy environment and a strong economy go hand in hand. Somehow, we have gotten this idea that they are mutually exclusive, and we can't have one without the other.

Again, Republicans have the solutions to cutting the red tape—it is called the BUILDER Act—and by so doing, we can empower rural America and strengthen our Nation's economy at the same time.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. WESTERMAN for his comments. It just goes to show that it is not just Washington State, but clear across the Nation in Arkansas as well.

To further prove that point, I would like to turn to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER), my good friend and colleague from the northeastern part of the State, a place where I have had the privilege to visit and see the great things that are happening in the energy sector there.

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me and for organizing this Special Order and all the great work that he does leading the Western Caucus.

We are really working on issues that impact not just rural America but all of America. And just to highlight a little bit of what is happening in Pennsylvania, currently in Pennsylvania, Pennsylvanians are paying on average \$4.42 per gallon of gas. That is \$1.39 more than they were paying a year ago.

The White House is frantically trying to spin a narrative that points to Russia's invasion of Ukraine as the catalyst for skyrocketing gas prices.

The truth is that the Biden administration set this energy crisis into motion on day one of his term in office by cutting American pipelines and halting leases for drilling on Federal lands. Blocking oil and natural gas drilling puts a stranglehold on domestic production and leads to higher prices for American families.

Not only has the Biden administration diminished American energy independence, but it also gave Russia the confidence to weaponize its energy exports. Pair this with Biden's refusal to unleash American energy dominance, and you have a United States, our United States that is dependent on tyrannical nations for energy.

American energy is right beneath our feet. We must kick production into high gear. We heard the President stand here and talk about buy American, made American. Well, we can't do that without American energy. We can't build American infrastructure without American energy.

To unleash that energy, the Biden administration needs to start listening to the people, needs to trust in the energy producers. We produce energy in the United States more cleanly than any other nation on the face of the Earth. We do it right, we do it environmentally friendly, and we do not want to enrich people who want to do harm to us or our allies. That is what we need to do.

We need expedited permits for LNG-exporting facilities. We need to get through the permitting process for drilling. We need to make sure we can drill on Federal lands. We need to make sure we complete pipelines. Those are the things that are halting American energy production, fueling inflation, and adding to the skyrocketing cost of energy for all Americans.

It is costing more to fill up our gas tanks. It is costing more to run our businesses and heat our homes. Simply, it is avoidable if the Biden administration would just reverse its policies and go back to where we were just 1½ short years ago, and that was energy independence. I look forward to working with Mr. NEWHOUSE on many things that can help make America stronger and put Americans first.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. KELLER for reminding us that these policies and decisions have impacts not just domestically but truly impact our relationships and our position of strength throughout the world, and especially in the situation we find ourselves in today.

Next, I yield to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS), a good friend and colleague, the ranking member on the Energy and Commerce Committee, someone I have served with for a long time, not only in the statehouse in Washington State but here in the people's House in Washington, D.C.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my good friend, DAN NEWHOUSE, chairman of the Western Caucus, for his great leadership for bringing us together tonight.

This is a pivotal moment in our Nation's history. We are witnessing the real dangers of undermining our independence because of a rush-to-green agenda and what it means for our national security, our geopolitical power, and our standard of living here in the United States of America.

Energy is foundational to everything that we do. Actions to shut down American energy disarms us, and it disarms our security. By boosting our domestic production of oil and natural gas, we could be helping our allies in Europe, standing with Ukraine, and countering Putin's war.

Shutting down American energy drives people into poverty. Energy prices here at home are surging. Gas prices are the most expensive in the United States' history, breaking the record that was set by the Obama administration in 2008. Filling up the gas tank now will cost a typical family an additional \$2,000 this year. This is not "Putin's price hike."

How did this happen? How did America get into this energy crisis? These are the facts:

Under President Biden, domestic oil production declined by more than 1.5 million barrels per day, while Russian imports to the United States reached an 11-year high.

President Biden canceled the Keystone XL pipeline and imposed a moratorium on energy development on Federal lands.

The administration is currently sitting on more than 4,500 permits to drill.

Regulatory uncertainty surrounding pipeline approvals have already led to the cancelation of at least four major

pipeline projects that could have served over 25 million homes.

The cancellations of these four pipelines restricted nearly 10 percent of our natural gas production. And other pipelines are under threat of closure, like Line 5, which is critical to those who live in Michigan and Ohio.

But what is the administration's solution to this self-made crisis? What they really want to do is ban all oil and force a faster transition to their radical agenda. The President is doubling down on the rush to wind, solar, and electric vehicles—he stated so in the State of the Union—while at the same time saying that he wants to make things in America.

In order to make things in America, we must cut the red tape for domestic mining, the processing of minerals that right now is nearly impossible in our Nation. China is controlling 80 percent of the critical minerals and materials needed to manufacture renewables and batteries. We can't trade American energy security, reliability, and affordability by rushing to green technologies that make us reliant on the Chinese Communist Party.

America is the number one energy producer in the world, and we should act like it, yet the actions we are taking right now are not helping. We could boost our domestic energy production. It is vital to our way of life, our security in bringing down energy prices.

This Congress should move the legislation that I introduced with my friend BRUCE WESTERMAN, who is the ranking Republican on the Natural Resources Committee. It is called the American Energy Independence from Russia Act.

It would immediately remove restrictions on U.S. LNG exports so that we could deliver natural gas to our allies in Europe rather than them continuing to be dependent on Russia. They get 40 percent of their natural gas from Russia.

It would restart the oil and gas leasing on Federal lands and offshore so that we could regain our energy dominance, our energy independence.

It would protect American energy and mineral development from unilateral shutdowns by the Biden administration just revoking permits.

And because we need more pipelines, pipelines that are the safest way to move product, we would approve the Keystone XL pipeline.

Second, the administration must stop delaying the permits and put Americans to work on energy infrastructure in America. Right now, it takes on average 6 or 7 years to review a project.

Third, we need to embrace innovation for abundant, affordable, and clean energy for us and the rest of the world. It means reducing the permitting and regulatory burdens around nuclear. We should be leading in advanced nuclear technology, for us here in the United States and around the world, but right now the permitting is so costly and time consuming, it is delaying our progress.

With an all-of-the-above strategy, we can say “yes” to America's global leadership and lower energy prices. I continue to urge my colleagues across the aisle to work together on this. Let's flip the switch on American energy to ensure a better life and a more secure future for all.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman very much for helping to bring home the impact this is going to have on Americans, on families, on people just trying to get to work every day and having to fill up their gas tanks. These policies have consequences, and we need to understand that.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. For sure. We need energy to do everything.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. We do absolutely.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. We need to be leading. It is American leadership; it is American competitiveness; it is our security. Let's do it.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS), one of our great Members who has truly been a champion in helping to reduce red tape and improve the regulatory picture for people throughout this country.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington for yielding to me to speak on this important topic.

Most Americans can agree that the Federal Government is very good at creating regulations and making what should often be a simple process extremely complicated. In recent years, Federal permitting regulations have been some of the most overbearing and burdensome of regulations.

Landmark environmental protection laws, like the National Environmental Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act have become outdated and grown far too expansive. It is now nearly impossible to secure permits in a timely, efficient, and reasonable manner. From energy and mining projects to infrastructure development and forest management, burdensome and duplicative permitting processes have slowed or halted development throughout rural America.

Iowans are all too familiar with the overregulated government permitting process. One such example is the cumbersome and unworkable 2015 waters of the United States rule, also known as WOTUS.

□ 2000

Under the 2015 definition, the Federal government was given the authority to regulate almost any waters, including streams, ditches, ponds, and creeks.

In fact, the Federal Government would have the authority to regulate water on 97 percent of the land in Iowa. Let me repeat that: 97 percent of the land in Iowa. This left farmers, ranchers, landowners, and businesses to face confusion and burdensome restrictions on how to use their own property. WOTUS drastically expanded the jurisdiction over bodies of water like

streams and ponds that the Clean Water Act never intended to regulate.

Instead of burdening private citizens with confusing and ambiguous standards that could end up costing them thousands of dollars, we should work to ensure that the Federal Government's clean water efforts are focused on clearly defined bodies of water.

WOTUS hurt American farmers, ranchers, landowners, and businesses, it caused confusion, and it hindered economic development.

To help rural America, the Trump administration issued the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule, also known as NWPR. The NWPR is much more workable and keeps our water and land clean without destroying businesses in the process.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration is taking steps to revoke the 2020 NWPR and return to the 2015 WOTUS rule. Reverting back to terrible policies such as the WOTUS rule would have an extreme Federal overreach and would significantly harm small businesses and cripple our country's economic recovery.

The Trump administration also took steps to streamline processes under the National Environmental Protection Act to improve the ability for individuals and businesses to build, improve, and maintain infrastructure by facilitating more efficient, effective, and timely NEPA reviews by Federal agencies.

With our economy on the mend, the Biden administration should not be considering unnecessary and overly burdensome government regulations.

Reverting back to these policies represents a blatant, unconstitutional power grab aimed at taking Federal control over States in a way that threatens the rights of farmers, ranchers, and all other landowners in Iowa and across our great Nation. We need to let people do their jobs and cut back on the incredible number of Federal regulations in the permitting process.

We can protect our Nation's waterways and make improvements to infrastructure without burdensome regulations. In Iowa and in rural communities throughout the country, we recognize that farmers and ranchers are the original conservationists, and that bureaucratic red tape does not help us grow, prosper, protect our water and our land.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman's work on WOTUS and the navigable waters issue. I think I have heard her say something like those things, WOTUS, is truly the most—the worst regulatory overreach in our Nation's history and it is something we have to stop. I thank the gentlewoman for her work on that.

I would like to go just a little bit south from the State of Washington to another State that adjoins my State, and the good gentleman from Oregon, in his first term in Congress, but just doing an excellent job; and I am just delighted to have him as part of this effort.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ).

Mr. BENTZ. Madam Speaker, outdated and complicated permitting processes, excess paperwork, environmental impact statements, and years-long litigation processes have delayed or prevented projects all across Oregon, especially in my district, which covers more than two-thirds of the State.

Federal permitting involves too many agencies and too many bureaucrats. As far as Federal agencies are concerned, there are no consequences for time lost or money spent. Nowhere is this problem more pronounced than in forest management.

For decades, Congress has stacked process upon process, creating more and more red tape for agencies to deal with. Of course we want to know what the impact of a project will be. However, when the processes of determining that impact stall action for up to 20 years, the system is obviously broken.

With over 70 million acres of our national forest at high or moderate risk of wildfire, there is an urgent need to reduce the amount of unneeded and dangerous fuel. We have seen the tragic results of inaction as millions of acres of our beautiful forests burn each year, including over 10 million acres in 2020 alone and over 7 million acres in 2021.

In my home State of Oregon, over a million acres burned last year in the Labor Day fires. Last summer, smoke from the massive Oregon Bootleg Fire spread across the entire United States, visibly fouling the air and poisoning people even here in Washington, D.C.

The Biden administration issued a 10-year plan acknowledging the wildfire and forest health crisis and calling for treatment of an additional 20 million acres of the National Forest System, a fraction of what is actually necessary. Congress recently provided the Forest Service with over \$6 billion in the bipartisan Infrastructure and Jobs Act to increase hazardous fuels reduction and forest restoration activities. The agency, however, remains buried in red tape, endless analysis, and frivolous litigation.

A 2014 GAO report found that the United States Forest Service did more of the most costly and time-consuming NEPA reviews than any other Federal agency. These National Environmental Policy Act reviews often require the Forest Service to spend over \$1 million to complete paperwork, and then they take an average of almost 5 years to merely authorize small and inconsequential forest thinning projects intended to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire to our forests and communities.

While precious time is wasted, massive wildfires rage on, dumping billions of tons of toxic, cancer-causing pollution into our air. This is an environmental disaster rapidly becoming a nightmare.

Congress must take action to give the Forest Service additional tools to

reduce the time, cost, and litigation that delay the agency from authorizing and implementing these critical projects. I am proud to be a cosponsor of the Resilient Federal Forests Act, which would do just that.

Earlier this year, I expressed my concern on this very floor about the so-called River Democracy Act currently pending in the Senate. It would place new management restrictions on some 3 million acres of Federal land in Oregon by establishing a 1-mile wild and scenic buffer along some 4,700 miles of creeks and, in some areas, dry gulches.

The Forest Service recently reported that over half of the 2 million Forest Service acres of land impacted by this act is at high risk for wildfire. Treating these acres only becomes more difficult, if not impossible, with these types of designations.

It is time to overhaul our Nation's permitting and NEPA process. Current laws and agency rules hand far too much power to litigation groups that use sue and settle tactics to profit off our tax dollars by delaying and, in some cases, preventing important restoration projects.

We need serious, thoughtful reform to put an end to this abuse. I am glad my colleagues share my determination to make that happen, and hopefully it will be a bipartisan process.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for focusing on a very important issue for us in the West. Every summer we hear the West is burning. We have got to change our policies in order to prevent the loss of property, loss of life, the detriment to our environment.

I would like to turn the floor over now to someone who is—you know, we are the Western Caucus, right? But we have members from all over the country. And one of our members represents almost the furthest east in our caucus. The good gentleman from the great State of Georgia.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Georgia and the beautiful community of Savannah (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, President Biden wants to build back better. What he doesn't realize is that first, we must be able to build. Many otherwise shovel-ready infrastructure projects get trapped in bureaucratic gridlock for years.

Developers routinely find themselves navigating environmental reviews that require up to over 60 authorizations from as many as 13 different Federal agencies.

Projects starting today with new funding from the infrastructure deal won't be realized for 5 to 7 years, if not longer. After years of project design, engineering, planning, and financing, the 2 to 4-year permitting process commences. This pushes orders for new windmills, solar panels, transmission lines, charging stations, construction

equipment, steel, concrete, labor contracts, and whatever else a project may need years into the future. Only after all of that can the 2 to 3 years of construction begin.

The Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council analyzed 69 major projects and found that bureaucratic delays cost developers \$100 billion.

New wind and solar projects take 2.3 years, on average, to receive Federal permits; 3.3 years for electricity transmission projects, and 4.7 years for major new road projects.

This contrast with the ambitious and radical climate goals Democrats have set, calling for a 50 percent reduction in emissions by 2030. In that case, a 7 to 10-year development timeline is entirely too long or realistic.

Permitting challenges have resulted in extended delays and creating a chilling effect on new infrastructure investment. This isn't just a sacrifice of time. Perhaps worse, it costs money, a lot of money.

Twenty to 30 percent of total project funding is wasted on unnecessary red tape. We are wasting millions of dollars a year by just waiting. Instead of fixing that well-known issue, Democrats chose to throw more money at the problem. Now we see how this has brought on record inflation.

Sadly, the cost of these unnecessary delays is ultimately passed down to taxpayers, either through taxes, tolls, or increased rates in usage fees. It is no wonder that the U.S.' infrastructure is falling behind other developed nations.

What is curious is, why did Biden's so-called infrastructure bill do nothing to speed up the process, and, instead, doubled down on delays and bureaucracy?

Republicans and Democrats alike are struggling to build around these roadblocks, and it is high time Congress did something about it.

I thank the gentleman again for yielding.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for helping illustrate the impact that this has on local communities, the costs, not only in dollars, of the long permitting process, but the delay to communities for these much-needed projects.

Now, this could probably come under saving the best for last. The great Representative from the great State of California, I would like to say is was one of the premier members of the new freshman class. I appreciate Mr. VALADAO, a fellow farmer, a fellow West Coaster, being here being part of this Special Order to talk about some very important issues here.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO).

Mr. VALADAO. I appreciate the opportunity. Mr. NEWHOUSE has done an amazing job leading the Western Caucus and fighting for the things that affect some of us across the country.

You just heard of one of our colleagues from all the way on the East

Coast talk about some of the issues. It always amazes me that our issues are so aligned.

But specifically today I am going to talk a little bit about water. So in communities like the Central Valley, Federal permitting requirements, coupled with the State's strict environmental regulations make it harder for our communities to get the water they so desperately need.

Increasing water storage capacity is critical to ensuring a reliable water supply for our valley farmers that feed the country. Unfortunately, our broken permitting process prevents many of these critical water infrastructure projects from ever getting off the ground.

We need to fix complex and contradictory laws, court decisions, and regulations at the State and Federal levels that hinder our water storage infrastructure.

Layers of unnecessary bureaucracy and red tape in permitting decisions have blocked much of the needed progress on a long list of projects, from water storage, to energy production, to highways.

The government red tape in permitting is not only affecting water storage, it is also having a devastating effect on our Nation's energy supply.

There is a backlog of over 4,600 permits to drill pending under the Biden administration, and even though Federal law requires approval of the permits on Federal lands within 30 days, permits often languish at the Department of the Interior for a year or more.

This government red tape is hurting families in the Central Valley and across the country in the form of higher gas prices. It is time for the government bureaucracy to get out of the way so we can once again become energy independent.

There is no reason that streamlining the Federal permitting process should be a controversial issue. Rural communities like the one I represent are tired of burdensome government regulations holding them back. Greater efficiency in the Federal permitting process is critical for getting water to those in the Central Valley that need it most.

And as we saw, from other colleagues that spoke before us, this isn't just a California issue. And I know that the chairman here, Mr. NEWHOUSE and I, our districts are a lot alike. We both grow a lot of different commodities, and we are proud of our districts. But we both need something that makes it all possible, and that is water and energy.

I thank the gentleman for his leadership on these important issues and thank him for giving me the opportunity.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, the gentleman is right. What is more precious than water? And those of us in the West understand that very well.

So, Madam Speaker, let me just say I am very grateful to have colleagues from across this great country join me

tonight to talk about these issues, and to discuss our efforts in the Western Caucus as it relates to permitting month.

□ 2015

As you have heard, the broken processes surrounding permitting throughout the Federal Government have truly kneecapped our rural communities. This has slowed progress and has cost millions and millions of dollars.

In order to truly unleash American potential, we have to reform this process, and we will. Between the Western Caucus and those of us in Congress, we will continue to advocate for common-sense policies that are going to do just that.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for the Special Order opportunity this evening, and I yield back the balance of my time.

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Ms. DEGETTE, on Friday, March 11, 2022:

H.R. 2545. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Kevin F. McCumber, Deputy Clerk of the House, further reported and found truly enrolled a joint resolution of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Ms. DEGETTE, on Friday, March 11, 2022:

H.J. Res. 75. Joint Resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

Kevin F. McCumber, Deputy Clerk of the House, further reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker on Friday, March 11, 2022:

H.R. 2471. An act making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for providing emergency assistance for the situation in Ukraine, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 8 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YAR-

MUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 560, the Northern Mariana Islands Legal Residents Relief Act of 2021, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-3609. A letter from the Director, Regulations Management Division, Rural Development Innovation Center, Rural Development-Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program [Docket No.: RHS-20-SFH-0025] (RIN: 0575-AD21) received February 22, 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-3610. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulation, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — HUD Office of Hearings and Appeals [Docket No.: FR-6285-F-01] received February 22, 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-3611. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Tobacco Products; Required Warnings for Cigarette Packages and Advertisements; Delayed Effective Date [Docket No.: FDA-2019-N-3065] (RIN: 0910-A139) received March 7, 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-3612. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Stationary Combustion Turbines; Amendments [EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0688; FRL-5909.1-02-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AV03) received March 7, 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-3613. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fluopyram; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0607; FRL-9454-01-OCSP] received February 22, 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-3614. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; AK; Removal of Excess Emissions Provision [EPA-R10-OAR-2017-0031; FRL-9177-02-R10] received February 22, 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-3615. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Georgia: Approval of Revisions to State Implementation Plan; Correction [EPA-R04-OAR-

2022-0002; FRL-9413-01-R4] received February 22, 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-3616. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — [Oxirane, 2-(Phenoxy)methyl]—, Polymer With Oxirane, Ether With 2,2',2''-Nitrilotris[Ethanol] (3:1), Diblock; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0840; FRL-9416-01-OCSP] received February 22, 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-3617. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Polymonium Bisulfate; Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0292; FRL-9420-01-OCSP] received March 7, 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-3618. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; Revision of the Maximum Allowable Sulfur Content Limit for Number 2 and Lighter Commercial Fuel Oil [EPA-R03-OAR-2021-0482; FRL-9596-02-R3] received March 7, 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-3619. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations Update To Include New Jersey State Requirements [EPA-R02-OAR-2021-0747; FRL-9241-02-R2] received March 7, 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-3620. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Ipflufenquin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0225; FRL-8572-01-OCSP] received March 7, 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-3621. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; Los Angeles-South Coast Air Basin [EPA-R09-OAR-2021-0296; FRL-9386-01-R9] received March 7, 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-3622. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; NC; Removal of Transportation Facilities Rules for Mecklenburg County [EPA-R04-OAR-2020-0452; FRL-9175-02-R4] received March 7, 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-3623. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; KY; Jefferson County Emissions Statements Requirements for the 2015 8-Hour Ozone Standard Nonattainment Area [EPA-R04-OAR-2020-0446; FRL-9398-02-R4] received March 7, 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-3624. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; New Mexico; Clean Air Act Requirements for Emissions Inventory and Emissions Statement for Nonattainment Area for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R06-OAR-2020-0167; FRL-8989-02-R6] received March 7, 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-3625. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Atlanta Area Emissions Inventory and Emissions Statements Requirements for the 2015 8-Hour Ozone Standard [EPA-R04-OAR-2020-0400; EPA-R04-OAR-2020-0401; FRL-9274-02-R4] received March 7, 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-3626. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Arizona Air Plan Revisions, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Maricopa County Air Quality Department [EPA-R09-OAR-2017-0041; FRL-9572-01-R9] received March 7, 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-3627. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Regulation of Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic Chemicals Under TSCA Section 6(h); Phenol, Isopropylated Phosphate (3:1); Further Compliance Date Extension [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2021-0598; FRL-6015.6-02-OCSP] (RIN: 2070-AK95) received March 7, 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-3628. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.622(j), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (Toledo, Ohio) [MB Docket No.: 21-73] (RM-11889) received March 7, 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-3629. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's issuance of regulatory guide — Guidance for Implementation of 10 CFR 50.59, "Changes, Tests and Experiments", at Non-Power Production or Utilization Facilities [Regulatory Guide 2.8, Revision 0] received March 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-3630. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Approval of American Society of Mechanical Engineers' Code Cases [NRC-2017-0025] (RIN: 3150-AJ94) received March 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-3631. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting an Executive Order that takes additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14024 of April 15, 2021, with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United

States posed by specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(b); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(b); (91 Stat. 1627) and 50 U.S.C. 1641(b); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(b); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 117—101); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

EC-3632. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Compliance with Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe"; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3633. A letter from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Chinese Military-Industrial Complex Sanctions Regulations received February 22, 2022, 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-3634. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-345, "Closing of a portion of Maryland Avenue, S.W. between Independence Avenue and 6th Street, S.W., and the transfer of jurisdiction of portions of Independence Avenue and 4th and 6th Streets, S.W., S.O. 17-26507, Act of 2022", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-3635. A letter from the OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) [Docket ID: DOD-2019-OS-0103] (RIN: 0790-AK90) received February 22, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on House Administration.

EC-3636. A letter from the Special Assistant, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — List of Fisheries for 2020 [Docket No.: 200327-0090] (RIN: 0648-BI76) received February 22, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-3637. A letter from the Special Assistant, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Department's final rule — Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the U.S. Navy Training and Testing Activities in the Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing Study Area [Docket No.: 200625-0169] (RIN: 0648-BJ06) received February 22, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-3638. A letter from the Special Assistant, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision of Critical Habitat for the Southern Resident Killer Whale Distinct Population Segment [Docket No.: 210719-0149] (RIN: 0648-BH95) received February 22, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-3639. A letter from the Special Assistant, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the U.S. Navy Training and Testing

Activities in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWT) Study Area [Docket No.: 201020-0272] (RIN: 0648-BJ30) received February 22, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-3640. A letter from the Rules Administrator/Associate General Counsel, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Good Conduct Time Credit Under the First Step Act [BOP-1032-F] (RIN: 1120-AA62) received March 7, 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-3641. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, U.S. Customs and Border Security, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Emergency Import Restrictions Imposed on Archaeological and Ethnological Material of Afghanistan [CBP Dec.: 22-04] (RIN: 1515-AE72) received March 7, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-3642. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Most Favored Nation (MFN) Model [CMS-5528-F] (RIN: 0938-AT91) received February 22, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1931. A bill to provide competitive grants for the promotion of Japanese American confinement education as a means to understand the importance of democratic principles, use and abuse of power, and to raise awareness about the importance of cultural tolerance toward Japanese Americans, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-271). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3113. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-272 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. TORRES of California: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 979. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 963) to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2116) to prohibit discrimination based on an individual's texture or style of hair (Rept. 117-273). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committees on Agriculture and Transportation and Infrastructure discharged from consideration. H.R. 3113 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

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 Mr. NADLER (for himself and Mr. FITZGERALD):

H.R. 7072. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to modify delayed notice requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (for herself, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mrs. KIM of California):

H.R. 7073. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a grant program for screening, assessment, and treatment services for maternal mental health and substance use disorders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOORE of Alabama (for himself, Mr. CAWTHORN, and Mr. MANN):

H.R. 7074. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement a uniform application for use by any educational institution or training establishment seeking the approval of a course of education under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. SPARTZ (for herself, Ms. KAP-
TUR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. QUIGLEY,
Mr. HARRIS, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr.
GRIJALVA, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. WITTMAN,
Mr. CURTIS, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN,
Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. BURGESS, Mr.
RUTHERFORD, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr.
PETERS, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr.
WALBERG, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma,
Mr. YOUNG, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Il-
linois, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr.
CORREA, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mrs.
RADEWAGEN, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. PAL-
LONE, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms.
SALAZAR, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr.
ARMSTRONG, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER,
Mr. STAUBER, Mr. OWENS, Mr.
MCCLINTOCK, Mrs. KIM of California,
Mr. ESTES, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. CARTER
of Georgia, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr.
LATTA, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. MORELLE,
Mr. GOHMERT, Mrs. CAROLYN B.
MALONEY of New York, Mr.
LOUDERMILK, Mr. KILMER, Mr. BEYER,
Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. DEAN,
Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr.
RUIZ, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr.
FERGUSON, Ms. WILD, Ms. JACKSON
LEE, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois,
Ms. SPEIER, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr.
O'HALLERAN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr.
RESCHENTHALER, Ms. CHENEY, Mr.
MANN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr.
RASKIN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GREEN of
Texas, Mr. CROW, Mr. TONY GONZALES
of Texas, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MAST, Ms.
STEFANIK, Mrs. RODGERS of Wash-
ington, Mrs. HINSON, Ms. TENNEY, Mr.
SCHIFF, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. LEVIN
of Michigan, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr.
CRENSHAW, Mr. JACOBS of New York,
Mr. MEIJER, Mr. VALADAO, Mr.
VARGAS, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr.
ESPAILLAT, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. LAM-
BORN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms.
MATSUI, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms.
SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr.
WELCH, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. CARSON,
and Mr. GUEST):

H.R. 7075. A bill to designate Ukrainian
Independence Park in Washington, District
of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the
Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SCHRIER (for herself and Mrs.
MILLER-MEEKS):

H.R. 7076. A bill to amend the Public
Health Service Act to reauthorize the pedi-
atric mental health care access grant pro-
gram, and for other purposes; to the Com-
mittee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TORRES of New York (for him-
self, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. MEIJER, and
Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio):

H.R. 7077. A bill to require the United
States Fire Administration to conduct on-
site investigations of major fires, and for
other purposes; to the Committee on
Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mrs. ADAMS (for herself, Mr.
ROUZER, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALO-
NEY of New York):

H.R. 7078. A bill to amend title VI of the
Social Security Act to allow State and Local
Fiscal Recovery Funds to be loaned for low-
income housing tax credit projects; to the
Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself and Mrs.
AXNE):

H.R. 7079. A bill to amend the Internal Re-
venue Code of 1986 to increase the de minimis
exception for third party settlement organi-
zations to \$5,000, and for other purposes; to
the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr.
LYNCH, and Mr. CASTEN):

H.R. 7080. A bill to amend section 5326(a),
of title 31, United States Code, to clarify
that an order may be issued that covers the
entirety of the United States, to amend sec-
tion 5314 of title 31, United States Code, to
allow the Financial Crimes Enforcement
Network to obtain necessary information
concerning foreign non-financial trades or
businesses involved in illicit financial activi-
ties, including those of Russian and
Belarusian oligarchs, and for other pur-
poses; to the Committee on Financial Serv-
ices.

By Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois (for himself,
Mr. HIMES, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Geor-
gia, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Mr.
QUIGLEY):

H.R. 7081. A bill to seek immediate bilat-
eral, multilateral, and commercial debt ser-
vice payment relief for Ukraine; to the Com-
mittee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Ms.
WEXTON, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr.
SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 7082. A bill to designate the facility of
the United States Postal Service located at
2200 North George Mason Drive in Arlington,
Virginia, as the "Jesus Antonio Collazos
Post Office Building"; to the Committee on
Oversight and Reform.

By Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma (for herself,
Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr.
CRENSHAW, Mr. MOORE of Alabama,
Mr. ROUZER, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr.
CAREY, Mr. ESTES, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr.
MOORE of Utah, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr.
MCKINLEY, Mr. VAN DREW, Mrs. MIL-
LER-MEEKS, and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 7083. A bill to transfer seized Russian
assets to a Ukrainian Humanitarian Aid
Fund and to authorize the Secretary of the
Treasury to use amounts in the Fund for hu-
manitarian assistance for Ukraine, and for
other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign
Affairs.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 7084. A bill to amend the Federal
Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require, for
purposes of ensuring cybersecurity, the in-
clusion in any premarket submission for a
cyber device of information to demonstrate a
reasonable assurance of safety and effective-
ness throughout the lifecycle of the cyber de-
vice, and for other purposes; to the Com-
mittee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana (for him-
self and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana):

H.R. 7085. A bill to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to make predevelopment grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MALINOWSKI, and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 7086. A bill to amend section 981 of title 18, United States Code, to subject property attributable to certain sanctioned individuals to forfeiture to the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. GOSAR:

H.R. 7087. A bill to require inns, hotels, motels, and other establishments that provide lodging to transient guests to include all mandatory fees and other charges in the advertised rental rates for such lodging, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BALDERSON, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. LATURNER, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. MANN):

H.R. 7088. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Defenders of Ukraine, collectively, in recognition of their crucial role in the defense of the free democracy of Ukraine against Russia's unprovoked war of aggression; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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. KILDEE (for himself, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEAN, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. DELGADO):

H.R. 7089. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish hospital care and medical services to veterans and dependents who were stationed at military installations at which the veterans and dependents were exposed to perfluorooctanoic acid or other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, to provide for a presumption of service connection for certain veterans who were stationed at military installations at which the veterans were exposed to such substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MCHENRY (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 7090. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require the Secretary of the Treasury to permit an election relating to property transferred in connection with services to be made in electronic form; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MFUME (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SOTO, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. TRONE, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois):

H.R. 7091. A bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Henrietta Lacks, in recognition of her immortal cells which have made invaluable contributions to global health, scientific research, our quality of life, and patients' rights; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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. 7092. A bill to establish a grant program to assist States to establish or expand universal prekindergarten in public schools and public charter schools; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE:

H.R. 7093. A bill to withdraw certain Federal land in the San Bernardino National Forest in California from location, entry, and patent under mining laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. DONALDS, and Mr. BUDD):

H.R. 7094. A bill to provide greater output, price stability, and regulatory certainty with respect to domestic energy production in the United States and exports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASE, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. SAN NICOLAS):

H. Res. 980. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the third week of March 2022 as "National CACFP Week"; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BERA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. BASS, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. TRONE, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. KILMER, Ms. MENG, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. NEWMAN, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. CASE, Mr. SABLÁN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SIRES, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. TITUS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. KAHELE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. PORTER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CARSON, Mr. BEYER, Mr. PANNETTA, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. FLETCHER, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois):

H. Res. 981. A resolution commemorating the 1-year anniversary of the March 16, 2021,

shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, and denouncing anti-Asian hate; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, 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. MATSUI (for herself, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BASS, Mr. KILMER, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. SUOZZI, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. EVANS, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. NEAL, and Ms. NORTON):

H. Res. 982. A resolution recognizing the contributions of AmeriCorps members and alumni and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers to the lives of the people of the United States; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. O'HALLERAN (for himself, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KILMER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. COLE, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota):

H. Res. 983. A resolution recognizing the importance of Tribal colleges and universities to the United States and expressing support for designating the week beginning March 13, 2022, as National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. RASKIN (for himself, Ms. DEAN, and Mr. BACON):

H. Res. 984. A resolution recognizing the importance of sleep health and expressing support for the designation of the week of March 13 to March 19, 2022, as "Sleep Awareness Week"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas):

H. Res. 985. A resolution recognizing the 11th anniversary of the Syrian revolution against Bashar al-Assad; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and 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.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 7072.

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

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 7073.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MOORE of Alabama:
H.R. 7074.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 18
By Mrs. SPARTZ:
H.R. 7075.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Pursuant to clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.
Congress has the authority to enact this legislation pursuant to the power granted under Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution.
By Ms. SCHRIER:
H.R. 7076.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1
By Mr. TORRES of New York:
H.R. 7077.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8.
By Ms. ADAMS:
H.R. 7078.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. PAPPAS:
H.R. 7079.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution states that "Congress shall have the authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."
By Ms. WATERS:
H.R. 7080.
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. GARCÍA of Illinois:
H.R. 7081.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. BEYER:
H.R. 7082.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma:
H.R. 7083.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, 10, 11, and 18 of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. BURGESS:
H.R. 7084.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana:
H.R. 7085.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18).
Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of

compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

By Mr. COHEN:
H.R. 7086.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. GOSAR:
H.R. 7087.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8
By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:
H.R. 7088.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. KILDEE:
H.R. 7089.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8
By Mr. MCHENRY:
H.R. 7090.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1:
The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
Sixteenth Amendment:
The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.
By Mr. MFUME:
H.R. 7091.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which gives Congress the power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Ms. NORTON:
H.R. 7092.
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. OBERNOLTE:
H.R. 7093.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Pursuant to clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.
Congress has the authority to enact this legislation pursuant to the power granted under Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. PFLUGER:
H.R. 7094.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

H.R. 69: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. MACE, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 72: Mr. BABIN and Mr. BROOKS.
H.R. 82: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 214: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 259: Ms. BUSH, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 260: Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 286: Mr. FITZGERALD.
H.R. 488: Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 911: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 959: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 1011: Mrs. HINSON and Mr. MOORE of Utah.
H.R. 1026: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 1179: Mr. LIEU, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BERGMAN, and Mr. BARR.
H.R. 1219: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1282: Mr. McEACHIN, Mr. MANN, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. FOSTER, and Mrs. KIM of California.
H.R. 1297: Mrs. AXNE and Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 1321: Mr. LATURNER.
H.R. 1332: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. KUSTOFF.
H.R. 1348: Mr. CROW and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 1361: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 1408: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1437: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 1481: Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1551: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 1577: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 1607: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 1696: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 1730: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. CROW.
H.R. 1753: Ms. BUSH and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 1861: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 1916: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1931: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Ms. BASS.
H.R. 1946: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 1977: Mr. FALLON.
H.R. 2021: Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 2085: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 2144: Mr. O'HALLERAN and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 2223: Mrs. MCCLAIN and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 2244: Mrs. BEATTY and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 2252: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. MANN, and Ms. MACE.
H.R. 2262: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2294: Mr. GIBBS, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. BEYER, and Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 2297: Mr. LAMB.
H.R. 2303: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 2311: Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 2447: Mr. ARRINGTON.
H.R. 2489: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 2499: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. MFUME, and Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 2517: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 2519: Ms. OMAR and Ms. PRESSLEY.
H.R. 2549: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 2558: Mr. LOUDERMILK.
H.R. 2565: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, and Mr. KELLER.
H.R. 2584: Mr. SAN NICOLAS.
H.R. 2604: Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 2638: Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 2654: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 2734: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 2820: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 2863: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 2900: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 3072: Ms. BOURDEAUX.
H.R. 3108: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 3114: Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. MFUME, and Mr. SCHIFF.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

- H.R. 3149: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.
H.R. 3288: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 3297: Mr. RASKIN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. MALINOWSKI.
H.R. 3342: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 3348: Mr. GARAMENDI and Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 3483: Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 3488: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H.R. 3572: Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 3577: Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 3586: Mr. GALLEGÓ.
H.R. 3592: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 3617: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 3775: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 3783: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. MANING, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SIMPSON, and Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 3896: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3897: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Mr. BARR.
H.R. 3927: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. JACKSON.
H.R. 3932: Mr. LEVIN of California and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 3965: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 4043: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4058: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 4079: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 4085: Mr. EVANS and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4110: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 4198: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 4310: Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 4312: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.
H.R. 4402: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. NEGUSE, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 4410: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 4421: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 4472: Mr. CLEAVER and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4479: Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.R. 4589: Ms. BARRAGÁN and Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 4603: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 4647: Mr. McNERNEY.
H.R. 4677: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 4700: Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 4750: Ms. STANSBURY and Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 4792: Mr. BENTZ.
H.R. 4794: Mr. GALLEGÓ.
H.R. 4801: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. STANSBURY, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 4827: Ms. ROSS and Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 4934: Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. KEATING, Mr. TRONE, and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 5129: Mr. JONES, Mr. KINZINGER, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. MFUME, and Mr. SABLAN.
H.R. 5232: Mr. PENCE, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. GARBARINO, and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 5256: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 5315: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 5414: Mr. CARBAJAL and Mr. EMMER.
H.R. 5428: Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 5429: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 5430: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 5439: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 5497: Mr. BEYER and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 5498: Ms. SALAZAR.
H.R. 5504: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 5537: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 5538: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 5539: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 5540: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 5568: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 5581: Mr. MALINOWSKI and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 5585: Mr. McEACHIN.
H.R. 5607: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 5735: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 5775: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 5776: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 5788: Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 5819: Mr. NEAL and Mrs. DEMINGS.
H.R. 5828: Mr. KINZINGER.
H.R. 5841: Mrs. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 5984: Miss RICE of New York, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 5999: Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 6005: Mr. O'HALLERAN.
H.R. 6015: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BABIN, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. TURNER, Mr. HILL, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. COLE, Mr. GIMENEZ, and Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 6017: Mr. BENTZ.
H.R. 6027: Mr. SAN NICOLAS and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 6087: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 6102: Mr. MFUME and Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 6109: Mr. FITZGERALD.
H.R. 6201: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 6207: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 6208: Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 6219: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 6225: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 6235: Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 6251: Ms. BROWN of Ohio.
H.R. 6264: Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 6270: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 6286: Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 6323: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 6341: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 6342: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 6375: Mr. HIGGINS of New York and Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 6396: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 6408: Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 6409: Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 6411: Mr. ALLRED and Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 6416: Mr. SAN NICOLAS.
H.R. 6422: Mr. BUDD and Mrs. HINSON.
H.R. 6439: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 6448: Mr. LAMB.
H.R. 6463: Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. ROSENDALE, and Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 6472: Mr. TIFFANY.
H.R. 6532: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 6537: Ms. JACOBS of California.
H.R. 6550: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 6557: Mr. DESAULNIER and Mr. SAN NICOLAS.
H.R. 6571: Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELBENE, and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 6573: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 6577: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 6580: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 6584: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 6602: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 6612: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 6613: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 6615: Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Ms. Velázquez.
H.R. 6641: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. WESTERMAN.
H.R. 6644: Mr. ROY.
H.R. 6663: Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 6702: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 6738: Mr. BUCHSHON and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 6748: Ms. GRANGER, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 6764: Mr. BROOKS.
H.R. 6802: Mr. GOHMEYER.
H.R. 6805: Mr. CLINE, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. WITTMAN, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 6817: Mr. BERGMAN.
H.R. 6823: Mr. RYAN and Mr. ELLZEY.
H.R. 6830: Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 6843: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 6858: Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. FALLON, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 6862: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 6864: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 6872: Mr. EVANS and Mr. SWALWELL.
H.R. 6873: Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 6879: Mrs. McCLAIN.
H.R. 6891: Mr. COLE, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. BARR.
H.R. 6907: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 6916: Mrs. HINSON.
H.R. 6921: Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 6925: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 6928: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H.R. 6934: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 6937: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 6940: Mr. PENCE.
H.R. 6945: Mr. CARL and Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 6946: Ms. CRAIG and Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 6954: Mr. CROW and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 6969: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 6970: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. COMER, and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 6978: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 6989: Mr. PANETTA, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 6998: Ms. ADAMS and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 7002: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 7011: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. LAWSON of Florida.
H.R. 7015: Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. CAMMACK, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 7019: Mrs. BUSTOS and Mrs. HINSON.
H.R. 7025: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 7030: Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 7037: Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 7039: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. Crenshaw.
H.R. 7050: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H.R. 7057: Mrs. CAMMACK.
H.R. 7060: Mr. NEWHOUSE and Mrs. CAMMACK.
H.R. 7061: Ms. LEE of California, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PORTER, Ms. TITUS, Ms. BUSH, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. JONES, and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 7062: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. PORTER, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. CASTEN.
H.J. Res. 1: Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. KILMER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. DELGADO, and Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.J. Res. 3: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
H.J. Res. 12: Mr. NEHLS.
H.J. Res. 28: Mr. BROWN of Maryland.
H.J. Res. 53: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Mr. STEWART.
H.J. Res. 67: Mr. BENTZ.
H. Con. Res. 15: Mrs. LESKO.
H. Con. Res. 21: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Ms. HERRELL.
H. Con. Res. 33: Mr. DONALDS and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H. Con. Res. 60: Mr. RASKIN, Mr. DEFazio, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H. Con. Res. 72: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. NADLER.
H. Con. Res. 78: Ms. MENG and Ms. TLAIB.
H. Res. 29: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. SCHIFF.
H. Res. 237: Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. TITUS, and Mrs. KIM of California.
H. Res. 338: Mr. GARBARINO.
H. Res. 425: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. DELGADO, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 874: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H. Res. 891: Mr. NEGUSE.
H. Res. 892: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H. Res. 908: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H. Res. 923: Mrs. HAYES.
H. Res. 959: Mr. NORMAN and Ms. FOX.

H. Res. 961: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. CLYDE.

H. Res. 963: Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. LAHOOD,
and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.

H. Res. 964: Ms. MENG and Mr. JONES.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIM-
ITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIM-
ITED TARIFF BENEFITS

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

The amendment to be offered by Rep-
resentative FITZGERALD, or a designee, to
H.R. 963, the FAIR Act, does not contain any
congressional earmarks, limited tax bene-
fits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in
clause 9 of rule XXI.



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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the center of our hope, as the Russian war against Ukraine reaches its 20th day, we keep our eyes on You. We thank You for Your might, majesty, and power. You are the source of our strength, and the hope for all our tomorrows.

As our lawmakers strive to do their best for freedom, make them worthy of their high calling. May the lure of expediency never tempt them to betray the highest principles.

Lord, use our Senators to build a better and more peaceful Nation and world. May they maintain the fidelity of those to whom much has been given.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 15, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, so the Senate this week will continue fulfilling its constitutional duty to confirm more of the President's judicial and administrative nominees. Yesterday, I filed cloture on 12 additional nominees, setting up a busy rest of the week here on the floor. Absent an agreement to expedite the process—and, unfortunately, we have seen all too few of those coming from our Republican colleagues—Members can ex-

pect to begin voting tomorrow morning, and we will work through all 12 nominees until we have a path to getting them confirmed.

Due to the months of obstructive holds by a few—just a handful of Republicans—in addition to judicial nominees, we also must use up floor time to confirm U.S. attorneys, something practically unheard of in the Senate. These Republicans who have delayed our U.S. attorneys are actively making our communities less safe, and it is regrettable they have chosen to obstruct the Senate for their own personal political interests. So my colleagues ought to be prepared for a busy few days here on the floor.

Now, among the nominees we will consider are two great nominees from New York, I am proud to say. One, we will consider Judge Ali Nathan, nominated to serve as judge for the Second Circuit. She is a brilliant jurist with a decade of experience as a district judge, and I was proud to recommend her to sit on one of the most important courts in the Nation.

I am also pleased that the Senate will also vote on Hector Gonzalez to serve as district judge for the Eastern District of New York. Born in Cuba, raised in Queens, and a Fulbright scholar who became one of New York's top attorneys, Mr. Gonzalez is the very embodiment of the American dream; and, like Judge Nathan, I am glad to have recommended him to President Biden.

I am also glad to note, under Senator DURBIN's leadership, Judge Nathan and Mr. Gonzalez received bipartisan support in committee, so I look forward to the Senate confirming them in short order.

But first, the Senate will look to make history, once again, later today by confirming Shalanda Young to serve as President Biden's Director of the Office of Management and Budget, a Cabinet-level position. She would be the first Black woman ever confirmed by the Senate to lead the OMB.

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



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It shouldn't have taken this long to confirm someone as obviously qualified as Shalanda Young. She has been leading the OMB for nearly a year. She knows the budget and appropriations processes like the back of her hand. She has proven capable of working with Republicans and Democrats alike, and it was through her guidance that the administration notched some of its biggest victories, including the passage of the bipartisan infrastructure law.

Shalanda Young is one of the most effective Cabinet leaders to have the label of "Acting" in a very long time, but it is long past time for that word to drop from her job title. I look forward to the Senate officially confirming Ms. Young as OMB Director later today.

CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Mr. President, now on the omni, later this afternoon, I will join with a number of my Senate colleagues in attending a signing ceremony at the White House for the 2022 omnibus funding bill, one of many significant and bipartisan accomplishments of the Senate in recent weeks.

In a 50-50 Senate, it is no small feat for this Chamber to pass the boldest and most significant funding package that Congress has seen in a long, long time. Under this new package, students, parents, working families, small businesses, and veterans will see costs go down and greater investments go their way. Our troops are going to get a much needed raise. Student loan borrowers will see their maximum Pell grant awards increase by the largest amount in over a decade, impacting 7 million students, not to mention their families.

We are giving parents more help for affording childcare and seniors more help to receive care at home.

For the first time in years, the Violence Against Women Act, one of the most important pieces of legislation in the last 30 years, will finally be renewed, offering lifesaving resources for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

And, of course, we are keeping our promise to Ukraine by providing nearly \$14 billion in humanitarian and military aid. This means food and shelter for the millions trapped in war, relief for the now-3 million refugees fleeing the country, and funding to transfer Javelins, Stingers, and other anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons to the Ukrainian fighting forces.

The Ukrainian people are not alone in their struggle against Vladimir Putin's savage war. I commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who accelerated the passage of this emergency funding, and I again commend President Biden for his handling of the crisis to date. As I said weeks ago, the President deserves immense credit for keeping the allies together against Putin, imposing crippling sanctions on Russia, and responding to a turbulent conflict with clarity and with strength.

Some were pushing the President to do too much too soon, risking an esca-

lation of the crisis and risking that our allies would not join us, but so far, the President's approach has been right on target. Thanks to the President's approach, Putin is now one of the most reviled and isolated leaders that the world has seen in a very long time.

For this reason alone, signing the omnibus into law is a major accomplishment, and I thank the President, Senators LEAHY and DURBIN, and all our appropriators and Members on both sides of the aisle for getting it done.

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. President, now on SCOTUS, what do retired conservative judges, a group of 80 current and retired State attorneys general, the U.S. Black Chambers, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police all share in common? You might ask yourself that question. Well, they are just a few—just a few—of the many, many groups and individuals who have endorsed Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson for the Supreme Court.

When I met with Judge Jackson a few weeks ago, it was immediately clear why so many different groups have sung her praises. On top of her brilliance, on top of her experience, she is unusually gifted at seeing and appreciating both sides of an argument. It is little surprise, then, that in the course of rendering nearly 550 decisions as a Federal district judge, she was rarely reversed by higher courts. In fact, she has been reversed perhaps around a dozen times out of 550 decisions. That is about 2 percent—2 percent—of the time.

This week, Members from both sides of the aisle will continue meeting with the judge. I believe, under Senator DURBIN's leadership, every member of the Judiciary Committee has had the chance to meet with her. I am confident that any new conclusions my colleagues make about her will keep pointing in one direction: Judge Jackson is brilliant. She is beloved. She belongs on the Supreme Court. It is worth repeating the three b's over and over again—brilliant, beloved, belongs—because those three words are undoubtedly true as applied to Judge Jackson.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

UKRAINE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, American strength is not a provocation. American strength secures deterrence and peace. It is American hesitancy and weakness which our adversaries see as an invitation. It is a simple fact. We relearned it the hard way many times in our history. It should form the cornerstone of any administration's foreign policy, but every day brings new distressing signs that the Biden administration forgets this lesson.

President Biden hesitated and waited to reinforce our NATO allies with more

American troops out of fear that it might provoke Putin. President Biden hesitated and waited to send Stingers to the Ukrainians out of fears that it might provoke Putin. President Biden declined to send support and training to Ukraine in December because he feared it might provoke Putin.

Here is a headline from earlier this week:

Pentagon push to send more trainers to Ukraine was scrapped in December amid White House fears of provoking Russia.

Last week, President Biden publicly split from our ally Poland and scrapped a plan to get airplanes to Ukraine because our administration feared it might—you guessed it—provoke Putin. Predictably, Putin has not pulled his punches as a thank-you to President Biden for pulling his punches.

American strength is not the provocation; American weakness is. We need to help get air defense systems to Ukraine without wasting another second.

But, meanwhile, the Biden administration is already replaying this mistaken philosophy with another adversary. Iran watched our humiliating, botched retreat in Afghanistan. They have watched the Biden administration squabble with our Middle Eastern partners while removing sanctions from Iran's own terrorist proxies in Yemen.

The Iranians have taken the measure of this administration. This weekend, even as the Biden administration is reportedly putting the finishing touches on an agreement deal that would massively favor Iran over America, they unleashed an audacious—audacious—missile strike into the Kurdistan region of Iraq that came very close to hitting our U.S. consulate.

How will our Commander in Chief respond? The record is not encouraging. Deterrence of Iran has steadily eroded under his tenure. The worse the Iranians behave, the more desperate the Biden administration seems to be to give them concessions.

Judging by public reports, the deal that President Biden is preparing would impose fewer, weaker, and shorter restrictions on Iran than even the deeply flawed 2015 deal, while giving them major and lasting relief from sanctions.

The deal would reportedly not even touch Iran's ballistic missile program. So Iran lobbs missiles toward our facilities, and we give Iran a huge influx of cash and a relaxation of pressure.

Iran clearly does not fear that they will pay a price for threatening American interests. They must be made to think again.

Yesterday, Senate Republicans sent the administration a letter expressing our grave concerns that they are preparing once again to give away the store. Republicans stand ready to work together on a real, tough agreement that blocks Iran's path to nuclear weapons, constrains its missile programs, and confronts its support for terrorism. But if the administration

continues down the path they are on, they will find the stiff opposition that that path deserves.

NOMINATION OF SARAH BLOOM RASKIN

Now, on another matter, there is bipartisan Senate opposition to Sarah Bloom Raskin, President Biden's radical and unacceptable nominee for the powerful Federal Reserve Board position of Vice Chair for Supervision.

Runaway inflation is hammering American families. Democrats' reckless policies have backed the Fed into a very tricky corner. Just this morning, the new "Producer Price Index Report" showed wholesale inflation is up 10 percent—10 percent—over 12 months, tied for the worst year ever.

At a time like this, the Fed's independence is paramount. But President Biden's nominee for this powerful seat has spent years campaigning to turn the Fed from a nonpartisan central bank into a far-left superlegislature that voters cannot get rid of.

Explicitly and repeatedly, she has called for the Fed to go about picking winners and losers in accord with liberal ideological goals completely unrelated to the Fed's core duties.

The far left cheered Ms. Raskin's nomination for the same reason that Senators from both parties oppose it. She wants to take radical policy aims that liberals can't achieve through Congress and hardwire them directly into our financial system instead.

President Biden was literally asking for Senators to support a central banker—a central banker—who wanted to usurp the Senate's policymaking power for herself.

Ms. Raskin would have been a Vice Chair who sought to raise gas prices, raise home heating costs, and undermine the very institution of the Federal Reserve in the process.

It is not surprising that there is bipartisan Senate opposition to such a radical nominee. Even before one considers the unanswered ethical questions to which the Banking Committee has not been able to get straight answers, President Biden's selection wildly—wildly—missed the mark. It is past time the White House admit their mistake and send us somebody suitable.

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Now, on one final matter, what can the Senate conclude about a Supreme Court nominee from the nature of their fan club?

That is a question the Democratic leader answered very clearly a few years back. In 2005, Senator SCHUMER accused future Chief Justice John Roberts of being "embraced by some of the most extreme ideologues in America."

Our colleague continues:

That gives rise to a question many are asking: What do they know about you that we do not know?

That was Senator SCHUMER questioning the Chief Justice. Of course, there was nothing extreme about then-Judge Roberts, nor about mainstream scholarly groups like the Federalist

Society. But given Democrats' principle that the Senate ought to examine nominees' fan clubs, let's take a look at the loudest cheerleaders for President Biden's nominee, Judge Jackson.

Before the 2020 election, one far-left dark money group put Judge Jackson on their Supreme Court short list—well, not at first. She was left off their first version, but, shortly thereafter, the judge published a fiery 118-page opinion in a politically charged case that won attention and praise from liberal pundits.

One cable TV host observed that Judge Jackson's opinion was not standard legal writing, but was written with "a broader audience in mind."

Not long after, Judge Jackson was added to the next version of the activists' short list. Practically as soon as President Biden was sworn in, this group began spending big sums of money boosting Judge Jackson's profile. They put her face on posters around the Senate. They paid for billboards pushing Justice Breyer to retire.

This is a far, far-left group. They agitate for partisan Court packing. They drive around town trying to harass Justice Kavanaugh. They filed a frivolous ethics complaint against former DC Circuit Judge Tom Griffith. Last week on television, one of their board members said our Constitution—listen to this—our Constitution "is kind of trash."

This group's entire purpose and fundraising model is waging war on the legitimacy of the judiciary itself, and for some reason, these people desperately wanted Judge Jackson in particular to end up on our highest Court. Why? Well, Senators will need to explore that.

A representative from this radical outfit told the Washington Post that they like Judge Jackson for reasons that include her work "as a public defender and on the U.S. Sentencing Commission."

We are in the middle of a violent crime wave, including soaring rates of homicides and carjackings. Even last summer, when the pandemic posed a bigger challenge, more Americans said violent crime was a bigger problem than said COVID was.

Amid all this, the soft-on-crime brigade is squarely in Judge Jackson's corner. They wanted her above anyone else on the short list. And they specifically cite her experience defending criminals and her work on the Sentencing Commission as key qualifications.

As Leader SCHUMER once asked, what do these folks know that Senators may not? I hope the vigorous Senate process ahead, including all the necessary documents and records from Judge Jackson's time on the Sentencing Commission, may begin to shed more light.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am glad I was on the floor to hear the Re-

publican leader's comments about our Supreme Court nominee, Ketanji Brown Jackson, because there are a couple of elements that he obviously inadvertently missed that he should have reported when he was talking about the support that she has received from across the political spectrum. He made her out to be a product and creation of some far-left political cause or movement, but she is much more than that.

He went on to say that Judge Thomas Griffith of the DC Circuit was harassed by the same special interest group that supports Judge Jackson. He missed one key element. I just received a letter within the last 2 weeks from Judge Thomas Griffith, a well-known, retired, conservative Federal judge, endorsing Ketanji Brown Jackson. How about that?

It doesn't sound like a special interest group to me. It sounds like a Republican-appointed judge who saw her in action and wants to make sure that she gets a chance to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States.

It makes a big difference because, if you take a look at what he had to say about her, Judge Griffith wrote:

Judge Jackson has a demonstrated record of excellence, and I believe, based upon her work as a trial judge when I served on the Court of Appeals, [that] she will adjudicate based on the facts and the law and not as a partisan.

That is exactly the opposite of the point that was being made by Senator MCCONNELL. She has the support across the political spectrum. He failed to mention that she has been endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police.

Oh, she is supposedly suspect of being too liberal. Well, I can just tell you that she is a person of quality, integrity, and values, and she has the support across the political spectrum to prove it.

I believe she is going to be an extraordinary Justice on the Supreme Court, and President Biden made a good choice in selecting her.

UKRAINE

Mr. President, moving to a different topic, what does courage look like? What does the face of courage look like? Well, we see it every day on television out of Ukraine. We see individuals leaving their regular lives, grabbing a rifle to defend their nation, and being prepared to die in the process. That is the face of courage.

We see the face of courage in the President of Ukraine, an extraordinary individual, who once was a rising standup comedian and now is a rising standup President for his nation of Ukraine, risking his life every day to stay in Kyiv and to be there to inspire his people to resist Putin's barbaric invasion of that country.

We are going to see that tomorrow in the joint session of Congress. It is the first Zoom joint session of Congress that I have ever been in attendance, and I am glad we are doing it. For the last several weeks, I have been in touch

through Zoom conference calls with President Zelenskyy. He is a courageous man.

But courage is not limited to Ukraine. An event occurred yesterday in Moscow which bears our approval and consideration. On state-run television in Moscow, a woman was reading the propaganda that was on the show, when an employee of that same channel burst on to the set and interrupted the news broadcast.

Her name is—and I am going to try to pronounce her Russian name here—Marina Ovsyannikova—Marina Ovsyannikova. That is her, standing there holding a sign saying “no war.”

She was wearing a yellow and blue necklace, the colors of Ukraine.

And this woman, an actual editor at Channel One in Moscow, shouted:

Stop the war. No to war.

Their sign says:

Don't believe the propaganda. They are lying to you here.

It was signed in English:

Russians against war.

Now, this might have been something just viewed as a disruption, but in Russia under Putin, her actions constitute a crime.

What has happened to her? Well, we don't know. She disappeared shortly after this appearance on television.

Under a new law, she could be sentenced to up to 15 years in prison for using the word “war” to describe Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

But she was unbowed. Before her protest, she recorded a video which has been released through human rights group. I want to read for you what she said in this video:

Regrettably, for a number of years, I worked on Channel One and worked on Kremlin propaganda. I am very ashamed of this right now.

She said:

Ashamed that I was allowed to tell lies from the television screen. Ashamed that I allowed the zombification of the Russian people. We were silent in 2014 when this was just beginning. We did not go out to protest when the Kremlin poisoned [opposition leader Alexei] Navalny.”

She continued:

We are just silently watching this anti-human regime and now the whole world has turned away from us.

She told her countrymen and women:

Only we have the power to stop all this madness. Go to the protests. Don't be afraid of anything. They can't imprison us all.

I believe that if more ordinary Russians knew the truth about what Vladimir Putin is doing in Ukraine, they would join her protest.

Russian media aren't reporting the truth: that Russia has lost more soldiers in the first 20 days of its invasion of Ukraine than America lost in two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. And Russian media aren't reporting on Russia's war crimes in Ukraine, like the horrific shelling last week of a children's and maternity hospital in Mariupol.

Yesterday, we learned that the injured woman on the stretcher in this

photo had died, as had her baby. It was a type of outrage which the American people will never forget and shouldn't. This was an intentional target, this maternity hospital, by Putin. He has bombed health clinics and hospitals across Ukraine. That is the type of person he is. That is the type of war he wages. That is the type of war criminal he is. Every one of these attacks is a violation of international law.

At least three facilities that serve women and children have been subject to attack, and innocent civilians have been killed. Throughout Ukraine, continued explosions and the threat of shelling have forced hospital staff to move critically ill children and other patients into bomb shelters in the basements. Children suffering from cancer, wartime injuries, and other serious conditions have been forced to move to western Ukraine by bus and train.

Throughout Ukraine, critical medications—insulin, cancer drugs, and other infusions—are in short supply, but the world is responding. We have seen an outpouring of revulsion against Putin and his war crimes. But we have also seen an outpouring of compassion, as governments and ordinary citizens step forward to aid Ukraine.

Last Wednesday, a group of nine doctors and nurses from the Chicago area flew to Poland to volunteer to help Ukrainians fleeing the war. They brought with them 167 suitcases filled with medicines and medical equipment.

Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, IL, donated nearly \$500,000 in equipment—all paid for in donations raised in just 72 hours.

The group included Ukrainian Americans, Lithuanian Americans, Polish Americans, Syrian Americans, and Pakistani Americans. The trip was organized by a nonprofit group called MedGlobal. It was founded by a man who is my friend, and I am proud to say that, an amazing Syrian-American doctor named Dr. Zaher Sahloul.

Over the years, this organization has taken medical missions to Syria, Burma, and other places torn by the conflicts that do emerge in these areas.

On this trip, the doctors and nurses spent 2 days in Lviv, providing medical care alongside Ukrainian doctors. They then returned to the Polish side of the border to provide aid to refugees in local hospitals.

Let me say a word about the refugees who are currently inside Ukraine and leaving Ukraine. The estimate now is that a nation with a population of 40 million, Ukraine, has more than 3 million refugees. Let me put that in perspective for a moment. Three million refugees in a matter of 20 days of war—can you imagine? If it were the United States and a similar proportion of the population, it would mean moving the population of the State of Texas out of the United States in 3 weeks. That is what is happening because of the terrible war and invasion of Vladimir Putin.

Providing medical assistance doesn't stop with what I have read into the RECORD. Chicago is also blessed with one of the finest pediatric hospitals in America, Lurie Children's Hospital. Lurie Children's has shipped 1¼ tons—1¼ tons—of medical supplies and medical equipment to Ukraine.

Staff at Lurie Children's are now exploring with Federal officials how they might help bring some of Ukraine's most critically ill children to the United States for needed medical treatment. The hospital spokesman called me last week to say that she was initiating an effort nationwide in the United States to ask every children's hospital to pitch in. If there are kids in Ukraine or out of Ukraine now as refugees who are in desperate need of medical care, America is going to be there.

I am so proud of Lurie Children's and all the other children's hospitals across the United States. They are exploring the same opportunity and challenge. I applaud America's children's hospitals for answering the call over the next several days to provide medical support for pediatric patients in critical need. I urge our Federal Agencies to assist in logistical challenges. Together, we can save these children's lives.

Tomorrow morning, a truly heroic leader, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, will address a virtual joint session of Congress. He will ask Congress and the American people to stand with Ukraine, to defend democracy and human dignity and to bring this horrific war to an end. We must answer that call. This fight is not Ukraine's alone; this is a fight for democracy and the right of people to choose their own leaders, decide their own destiny.

I will close with these thoughts—one from Garry Kasparov, a chess grandmaster, Russian expatriate, and fierce critic of Vladimir Putin.

Yesterday, Garry Kasparov tweeted:

Letting Putin crush Ukraine and murder thousands of innocents in a European war of conquest will redefine the world order. So would stopping him. We choose by action or inaction which world we want to live in.

America should choose to stand with Ukraine.

Slava, Ukraini.

One last point. Zelenskyy made a very important observation when it came to Putin and his future. I don't know if there are enough brave Russians to stand up to him—I hope there are—to depose him from power in that country, but if they don't, we are naive to believe that Ukraine is the end of his conquest agenda. He wants to restore the Soviet Union, and many of us know what that means—the Baltics. It means Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, as President Zelenskyy reminded us, would be the next target. They are small. They are near Russian populations. They are near Belarus, which has become a pawn of Vladimir Putin, and they are vulnerable.

The only thing standing between the Baltics and subjugation by Vladimir Putin is the document known as the

NATO charter. It is an agreement of an alliance where every nation under that flag will stand to defend the other under attack.

Most of us don't remember, but after 9/11/2001, the NATO allies came together and said that the United States had been attacked under article 5 and that they were willing to defend us if the terrorism continued. That is the kind of solidarity which we needed then and which the world needs now.

The NATO alliance was, unfortunately, weakened under the last President, but they have come around now to become a powerful force.

Just last week on Thursday, 10 of the Ambassadors from European nations gathered in a room and talked to us about their solidarity behind our effort to support Ukraine. It was a positive meeting, a good feeling, and I am glad that the NATO forces understand their responsibility and are prepared to defend these countries that are involved.

There is one last point I want to make because it is so outrageous, I believe it should be reported. The question really comes down to an interview of Donald Trump, the former President of the United States, by Jeanine Pirro on FOX television. He called Putin's invasion of Ukraine a project to rebuild a Soviet empire that had been, in the words of Donald Trump, "full of love." Full of love, a Soviet empire?

Unfortunately, the former President has no knowledge of history, nor does he have any understanding as to what happened to the countries under the subjugation of a Soviet empire, how they were forcefully brought into that alliance, which they never wanted to be part of. He obviously doesn't recall that 4 million Ukrainians died in the famines of the 1930s under Joseph Stalin's Soviet rule.

At one point, Ronald Reagan called the Soviet Union an evil empire. For Donald Trump, it is "full of love." How can he be so far wrong and not see the obvious—that Putin is not the spiritual man he was once identified as? He is a ruthless war criminal, and innocent people are paying the price for his outrages.

E-CIGARETTES

Mr. President, there is something else that is going on on the domestic front. Each of us kind of defines our career in Congress as what is important to us, and when I came to the House of Representatives, I had a little planning behind the decision to take after the tobacco companies.

My family was touched by tobacco death, as so many families are. I lost my father when I was a sophomore in high school. I was 14 years old; he was 53. He died from lung cancer. Two packs of Camels a day did it to him.

I decided in the House of Representatives I would start to take what action I could to stop the tobacco companies in their deadly march across America. So one of the things I did was to ban smoking on airplanes, put the law into effect, and it has changed dramatically not just air travel but life in America.

I had no idea that that was a tipping point, and once we banned smoking on airplanes, people would say: Well, why didn't you include schools or office buildings or hospitals or veterans facilities or buses or trains? And the dominoes kept falling. Now it is peculiar, it is strange, should someone walk into a room and light up a cigarette. It just doesn't happen. So that much was done.

But the tobacco companies didn't stop, even after they were proven to be liars under oath before the U.S. House of Representatives when they were asked whether or not tobacco caused cancer.

My new cause, again, against tobacco companies relates to e-cigarettes and vaping.

It has been 6 months—6 months. That is how long past a court-ordered deadline the Food and Drug Administration is to finish its public health review of e-cigarettes—6 months. As an attorney, if my client were 6 months late in meeting a court order, there would be major consequences, but for the FDA, it appears to be business as usual.

Mind you, this is not some bureaucratic squabble. The issue at stake is whether or not the Food and Drug Administration will do its job to prevent children in America from getting hooked on e-cigarettes that are being peddled by big tobacco companies in violation of the law.

You see, the Tobacco Control Act, the law of the land, requires that tobacco products be reviewed by the FDA before they can even be sold. The law says tobacco companies must prove to the FDA that their product is "appropriate for the protection of public health." They can't meet that standard. Everyone knows it. If they don't meet it, they are not supposed to be sold in the United States, period. That is the law.

But instead of doing its job, the FDA turned a blind eye for years at e-cigarettes and vaping—many funded by the largest cigarette corporations like R.J. Reynolds and Altria. Those companies flooded the market with flavored e-cigarettes meant to hook our kids. The result: Millions of children became addicted to e-cigarettes. Big Tobacco intentionally targeted children with trendy advertisements and fruit- or candy-flavored nicotine products.

These actions and FDA's failure to regulate e-cigarettes were a flagrant violation of existing law, so in 2019, a Federal judge stepped in and called the Agency out for its abdication of responsibility. The judge found that the Food and Drug Administration "decided not to enforce the pre-market review provisions at all." So the Federal court gave the FDA a deadline. Listen carefully. It required the FDA to complete its review of the legality of all e-cigarettes being sold in the United States by September 9, 2021.

When that deadline arrived 6 months ago, FDA announced that it had denied millions of applications for e-cigarettes

that had no business on the market. That was important and long overdue. However, a new trend emerged. Vaping companies, including many whose products had been denied by the FDA, were attempting to circumvent the law by reinventing their products.

Many e-cigarette companies tried to use so-called synthetic nicotine. We know nicotine—it is the habit-forming drug that is included in tobacco cigarettes. So they decided that if they made nicotine not out of tobacco but out of other chemicals, they would escape the reach of law.

The day after the FDA ordered Texas-based VaporSalon to remove its products from the market, the company announced:

VaporSalon is switching to tobacco-free nicotine . . . the main purpose of this is to be outside of FDA's regulations.

They were very bold about it. They wanted to hook our kids with synthetic nicotine and were arguing the government couldn't stop them.

The e-cigarette most popular with children is known as Puff Bar. It uses synthetic nicotine to escape the reach of the FDA. They peddle these addictive cigarettes to our kids in flavors not designed for any adults. Listen to the flavors: Blue Raz, Lemon Ice, Watermelon.

FDA is asleep at the wheel. But Congress recognized this problem recently and did something about it. The fiscal year 2022 omnibus bill that passed last week contains a bipartisan provision that I worked on with Senators COLLINS and MURRAY. Our policy closes the synthetic nicotine loophole.

When President Biden signs that law today, we are going to see this law go into effect and clarify the FDA as the authority to regulate synthetic nicotine products and to keep those e-cigarettes off the market. Congress is saying clearly that we will not allow predatory vaping companies to target kids for profit. Now, it is the FDA's duty to do the same.

I recently voted for the new Director, Dr. Califf, and I said to him: I am going to watch you, and I am going to be on you like a hawk. You have a Federal legal responsibility to stop these e-cigarettes from being sold to our kids. Don't waste time.

I hope he doesn't. I hope the FDA will use their new authority.

JUUL and Puff Bar are two companies most responsible for fueling the youth vaping epidemic. They continue to be sold despite court-ordered deadlines and despite the fact they use these kid-friendly flavors and tactics.

So why has the FDA not removed them? Why are more teens and even preteens still getting hooked on e-cigarettes? FDA has the authority to clear all unauthorized e-cigarettes from the market and force their sellers to prove that their products—it is their legal responsibility to prove their products are appropriate for the protection of public health.

Good luck. They are not going to be able to do that, and we know it.

Last week, I led a bipartisan letter with Senator ROMNEY, Republican of Utah, and 13 other Senators saying to the FDA to do three things: finish the review of e-cigarettes immediately; reject the applications for e-cigarettes, especially kid-friendly flavors; and No. 3, clear the market of all unapproved e-cigarettes.

Last month, when the Senate approved Dr. Califf, I made it clear that I wanted to treat this matter as an urgent requirement and to clear the backlog. Congress has now given him every tool he needs. Today marks 1 month of his tenure as Commissioner. Will he keep his word to me and so many others to protect kids from a lifetime of addiction? It is time for FDA to do its job and protect America's kids from Big Tobacco and their candy-flavored, sickness-causing e-cigarettes.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). The Republican whip.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, Friday marked the first anniversary of the so-called American Rescue Plan, which is the Democrats' partisan \$1.9 trillion spending spree. Fittingly, the anniversary arrived just 1 day after the release of February's inflation numbers which marked the worst inflation since January of 1982.

Why do I say "fittingly"?

Well, because the anniversary of the American Rescue Plan is basically the anniversary of our inflation crisis. While it is true that supply chain issues and the reopening of economies after COVID shutdowns created certain inflationary pressures, a big part of the reason for our current inflation crisis is Democrats' decision to pass the American Rescue Plan last March.

The definition of inflation is too many dollars chasing too few goods and services, and that is exactly the situation Democrats helped create with their so-called American Rescue Plan. Democrats came into office mere weeks after Congress had passed a fifth—fifth—bipartisan COVID relief bill totaling almost \$1 trillion and meeting, essentially, all current pressing COVID needs. Our economy was well on its way to a healthy recovery, and the majority of States had the money they needed to deal with the pandemic. In short, it was abundantly clear that we were not in immediate need of trillions more in government spending.

But that didn't stop Democrats. Now that they were in charge, they were eager to take advantage of the COVID crisis to begin implementing their Big Government vision. So in the name of COVID relief, they pushed through a massive partisan \$1.9 trillion spending piece of legislation filled with unnecessary spending and handouts to Democratic interest groups. Less than 9 percent of that \$1.9 trillion spending bill was earmarked for actually combating COVID. The rest went to priorities like a \$350 billion slush fund for States, a bailout for union pensions, rental as-

sistance far in excess of anything that was needed, and the list goes on.

Despite being billed as essential COVID relief, a substantial portion of the money appropriated will not be spent until 2022 or later; and despite the pressing need for workers to fill the millions of available job openings, Democrats created incentives for Americans to stay on unemployment instead of returning to work by extending enhanced unemployment benefits until September of 2021, long after they were likely to be needed. So the end result of all this was entirely predictable.

Democrats flooded the economy with unnecessary government money, and the economy overheated as a result. And you don't have to take my word for it. Here is what Steve Rattner, who served in the Obama administration, had to say in November:

The original sin was the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, passed in March. The bill—almost completely unfunded—sought to counter the effects of the COVID pandemic by focusing on demand-side stimulus rather than on investment. That has contributed materially to today's inflation levels.

Let me repeat that. This, according to Steve Rattner, who worked in the Obama administration, about inflation—talked about the legislation passed last year by the Democrats. He said that this "has contributed materially to today's inflation levels."

Or, as another former Obama administration member put it:

The United States has had much more inflation than almost any other advanced economy in the world.

That was Jason Furman, an economist at Harvard University and former Obama administration economic adviser.

He went on to say:

The difference comes because the United States stimulus is in a category of its own.

That, again, from another former Obama administration economist, Jason Furman.

Inflation started to rise almost as soon as the ink was dry on the American Rescue Plan, and it just keeps rising. February's 7.9 percent inflation marks the worst inflation since January of 1982—January of 1982—40 years ago.

And Americans are struggling. Just going to the grocery store is taking up a larger and larger portion of the American paycheck. Ground beef is up 13 percent; eggs are up 11 percent; citrus fruits are up 16 percent; chicken is up 13 percent; milk, up 11 percent; bacon and related products are up 18 percent; and on and on and on.

In fact, one American quoted in the New York Times noted that bacon is now as expensive as filet mignon used to be. Ordinary goods are starting to feel like luxury objects as more and more families struggle to afford basic grocery items.

A Washington Post columnist noted that a number of the price increases recorded for February were the highest annual increases ever recorded for

those items, including an 8.4-percent increase in the price of baby food and an 11-percent increase in the cost of lunch meat.

In a speech to House Democrats last week, the President suggested that he was "sick of" people saying that Democrats' reckless spending had helped cause our inflation crisis. This is what the President said last week—President Biden:

[T]he American people think the reason for inflation is the government is spending more money. Simply not true.

Well, there are a lot of economists who would disagree with him, including the two Democratic economists I have already quoted. And President Biden himself actually admitted in November that his stimulus checks helped increase the demand fueling inflation. I am sorry that President Biden is sick of having people point this out.

But you know who else is sick and tired of things? The American people. They are sick and tired of facing massive price increases everywhere they look. They are sick of increasingly having to live paycheck to paycheck as they wonder just how much further their grocery prices are going to go up. They are sick of wondering if they will be able to pay all of next month's bills.

And whether President Biden likes it or not, his so-called American Rescue Plan is responsible for a substantial part of the economic distress that Americans are now experiencing. And while President Biden may be sick of it, we need to keep talking about this because the President is still—still—trying to double down on the spending strategy that helped create this inflation crisis in the first place. Just 2 weeks ago in the State of the Union Address, the President discussed inflation and outlined his hopes for massive new amounts of government spending, spending that would unquestionably take an already bad inflation situation and make it even worse.

It is nice that the President and congressional Democrats are now talking about our inflation crisis, but it would be even nicer if they would realize that it was their spending that helped trigger this crisis in the first place; otherwise, we will continue to see Democrats push for ever bigger increases in government spending with correspondingly devastating price increases for American families.

The American Rescue Plan was a bad deal for Americans. Let's hope that Democrats do not have the chance to double down on this legislation and make our current inflation crisis even worse.

I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

(The remarks of Ms. ERNST pertaining to the introduction of S. 3836 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. ERNST. 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.

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

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

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, last week, the Senate passed a \$1.5 trillion funding bill that the Democratic majority insisted was full of must-pass, got-to-have-it, can't-live-without-it provisions that the American people were demanding. Unfortunately, the reality of what made it into that bill doesn't match the fantasy my Democratic colleagues conjured up for the cameras.

In reality, this \$1.5 trillion package was another spending spree. It was complete with 4,400 earmarks—4,400 earmarks. Now, these earmarks don't have any Federal nexus. They are not connected to your military post or your Federal highway. These are things for shopping centers and parks and city renovations and—you name it—pet projects. So that is not government funding; that is a Big Government windfall that the American people simply can't afford.

As we all know, an inability to pay for these programs has never stopped this Democratic majority from shoving through their radical and increasingly destructive agenda. By their own admission, the out-of-control spending habits have contributed to decades-high inflation. Imagine that.

What we know is that, in Tennessee, I am talking to people every day. They can't afford food and gas and to pay all of their monthly expenses, but for some reason, my Democratic colleagues think taxpayers will be happy to pay for their pet projects back home—all 4,400 of them. You just can't make this stuff up.

The American people are really confused by this. They are also completely appalled by Joe Biden's refusal to secure the border, his refusal to invest in American energy independence, and his willingness to keep our economy entangled with the Chinese Communist Party. Every one of these points worries them. Yet what really scares them is the President's refusal to discuss any of it: Just don't talk about it. It will go away. Inflation, that is transitory. If gas is too expensive, go buy yourself an electric vehicle. This is just so disrespectful of hard-working men and women.

Joe Biden has caused a lot more problems than he solved during the

first year of his Presidency, and his constant pivots away from life-or-death problems have destroyed what little trust the American people had left in his ability to get the job done.

They like to think that the President cares about what happens to them—the American people, the citizens—but they haven't seen any evidence to suggest that he is thinking about them.

Last week, I was up on the Plateau in Tennessee, talking to Tennesseans about what is going on here in the Senate. Most of what they tell me boils down to one simple truth: From where they are sitting and the news they are watching and the papers they are reading, it is clear that the Democrats have a very aggressive agenda, but they have no vision for the future of this country. They feel like what the Democrats want is control over their daily life, not a vision of a country filled with open doors and opportunity for all. They are not seeing that out of this agenda.

Why, they ask me, do their elected representatives take such drastic measures to do things that make their lives harder, that make their situations worse? They can't figure it out.

Since Joe Biden and the Democrats took control, inflation has skyrocketed. We have become energy dependent on Russia. We have abandoned not one, but two embassies. We high-tailed it out of there. Two embassies, cut and run. Our Border Patrol, they are apprehending known terrorists and MS-13 gang members who are coming into this country. If they are apprehending them, we are getting some but not all. And now we are hearing about Russia going out, going to Iran, saying: Let me have your soldiers for hire; let me have your proxies, the Wagner Group, which is closely aligned with Vladimir Putin.

And all the time, Tennesseans are saying: Well, what about these terrorists trying to come over the southern border? Are they mercenaries? Are they soldiers for hire?

People are raising these issues. And this is all part of what the Democrats have accomplished this year.

The American people tolerate quite a bit from their government, but one thing they won't accept is a President who shrugs his shoulders, runs from the podium, who claims to be a victim of circumstance, who is weak-kneed and refuses to lead.

Even former Obama White House officials have come forward begging the Biden administration to stop the spin, face reality, show some leadership, deal with the situation. This has to be getting embarrassing, even for them.

The American people have spent the past year watching Joe Biden abandon the policies that kept the country from collapsing under the weight of the pandemic. And what has he replaced those policies with? Mandates, lockdowns that have made the country poorer, increased regulation that has stopped oil and gas exploration, increased regula-

tion that is making it tougher on manufacturers, a push for higher taxes—that is what they are doing. And do you know what? It makes people less hopeful. It makes people less free. It gives people fewer options.

See, that is what they are seeing. The Democratic agenda is all about government control of your life. It is an agenda; it is not a vision for this country, for our children, for our grandchildren that is rooted in opportunity for all.

There is only one way to undo this damage and to stop this train that this administration is pushing as hard as they can toward socialism. The President needs to stop the spin. He needs to start listening to what people are saying, people across the country.

Here is the thing: They don't want this President to fail. They don't want him to fail. They don't want this country to fail, so it means that the President is going to have to stop bowing to all of this environmentalism as a religion and climate change as a god. They need to stop that.

They need to see, yes, we need to have an Operation Warp Speed, to be energy independent, pull everybody together—Federal Agencies, the private sector.

We are the United States of America, and if we had the desire, we could do this. We could be energy independent once again. We could stand strong. We could stand strong against Russia, against Iran, against China and the Chinese Communist Party.

What that is going to require is an administration and a Democratic Party that has a vision for the greatness and goodness of this country.

I think that what we have to do is we have to lead the way in saying it is time to show respect for the American people, to listen to what they are telling us, and to make certain that we stand for this country, standing strong for future generations.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be able to complete my remarks.

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

ENERGY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as all of America knows, prices at the gas pump are skyrocketing. Over the weekend, the average gas price in Texas exceeded \$4 a gallon, and we typically have some of the cheapest gasoline in the country. We didn't even cross that line during the great recession of 2008. But we know that gas prices are not the only

commodity that is growing and that family budgets are strained by. Consumers are also paying more for everything from groceries to clothes, to appliances.

Folks in Texas and across the country want to know, what is President Biden's plan to address high gasoline prices? Last week, the President was, appropriately enough, asked this very question. His response? He said:

Can't do much right now. Russia is responsible.

That is a quote—"Russia is responsible." Well, people across the country know that the price of gasoline, the spike that we are experiencing now, preceded the invasion of Ukraine.

Folks across the country can't afford to fill up their gas tanks to get to work, and the President points the finger at Vladimir Putin. Well, there is no question that the war in Ukraine exacerbated what was already an existing problem with the price of gasoline, but certainly it was not the cause of it. But the President conveniently omits the fact that gasoline prices were a problem long before Ukraine was attacked. For example, the week the President took office, Americans were paying an average of \$2.38 a gallon. Month after month, those prices steadily climbed. By mid-May, the average price exceeded \$3.10 a gallon, and by Thanksgiving, it was \$3.30 a gallon. Just as a reminder, this was months before Russia invaded, which did not happen until February 24 of this year. Even in the last full week before the invasion, gas prices were painfully high at \$3.50 a gallon.

So, yes, prices have risen since the invasion, and there is no question that the Russian aggression is a factor behind price jumps in the past few weeks, but this was a preexisting problem for which apparently the President had no solution. It is disingenuous for the administration to blame recordbreaking prices entirely on Russia. During Biden's first year in office, from January of last year to January of this year, gas prices increased 40 percent—40 percent. Those increases had nothing to do with President Putin and had everything to do with President Biden.

One of the President's first actions after taking office was to cancel the Keystone XL Pipeline. This pipeline would have given Canadian crude a quick and affordable path to refiners and processors in the United States and then to global markets through the Gulf of Mexico. This increased supply would add to the domestic markets and top off the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and even make its way to our friends and allies overseas. Given the state of the world's energy security today, it is easy to see how the Keystone XL Pipeline would have helped if the President had given it an opportunity.

This project would have also brought serious economic gains in the form of good-paying jobs right here in America, increased tax revenue, and benefits

for communities along the pipeline's route. But with the stroke of a pen, the President killed the Keystone XL Pipeline and the many benefits that would have been provided in terms of our energy security and the price of gasoline at the pump.

Unfortunately, that was the beginning but not the end of the administration's flawed energy policies. Just a few days later, the Biden administration placed a temporary moratorium on all new leasing permits on Federal lands, effectively sending more business to Russia and OPEC producers whom he actually called upon to produce more oil. That is right. Before the Russian invasion, President Biden called on OPEC—of which Russia is a member and of which Saudi Arabia is a dominant producer—to produce more oil overseas rather than to unleash American energy right here at home.

Well, the administration later attempted to set the "social cost" of carbon, as they call it, at \$51 a metric ton—a high and arbitrary figure designed to hamper fossil fuel production right here at home—and then it suspended oil and gas production in both Alaska and New Mexico.

The administration even took aim at refiners. The United States relies on an expansive network of refiners to supply gasoline, diesel fuel, and other petroleum products. The renewable fuel standard requires refiners to blend a certain amount of renewable fuel, which is simply untenable for many small refiners. And small refiners disproportionately actually produce gasoline, which means that the pressure on these small refiners actually has a disproportionate impact on higher gasoline prices.

The Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to grant temporary exemptions to small refiners if compliance would cause them to suffer serious economic hardship. Those exemptions used to be pretty standard practice. President Obama and President Trump each granted dozens of exemptions while in office. But so far, President Biden has refused to grant a single exemption to small refineries. Small refineries are hurting, and unless President Biden finally grants some of these exemptions, some of them may be forced to close their doors, exacerbating again high energy prices. If fewer refiners are operating, gasoline prices will go up, not down.

President Biden and his administration aren't the only ones who have taken aim at oil and gas production here in America in the last year. Many of our colleagues who have argued that oil and gas production is somehow unnecessary or obsolete and could be replaced today with solely renewable energy have been misleading the American people in believing that we could make that transition today or anytime in the near future. While renewable energy is an important part of our energy sources—in Texas, we produce more electricity from wind than any other

State in the Nation—we believe in an "all of the above" energy policy.

I actually have heard members of the administration say one of the solutions for eliminating the importation of Russian oil would be to move entirely to renewables. Well, the Energy Information Administration, which is the official spokesman on these matters for the U.S. Government, says that by the year 2050, 74 percent of our energy sources in America will still be fossil fuel. That is four times the amount of energy that can be produced by renewables.

That doesn't mean we are going to stay stuck on where we are now. We will continue to look for new and innovative ways to add to our energy diversity and improve our climate and environment at the same time. But to suggest disingenuously to the American people that one way we can deal with cutting off Russian imports is simply to do away with oil and gas in America is a ludicrous statement.

Other regulatory measures promoted by the administration have also discouraged American energy production, like the reckless tax-and-spending spree to pile even more costs and regulations on American oil and gas; for example, a methane tax on energy companies, banning offshore drilling, increasing onshore royalty fees, and putting domestic oil and gas producers in a choke hold.

Now that gas prices have gone through the roof, some of our colleagues have come up with another unhelpful solution. They want to temporarily suspend the gas tax through November, which happens to be the elections. That is no coincidence. This idea has been soundly rejected a number of times over the years by both Republicans and Democrats.

In 2008, gas prices were soaring and the then-Presidential candidate, Barack Obama, attacked his opponents for endorsing a gas tax holiday, as many of our colleagues here in the Senate have endorsed currently.

At the time, Candidate Barack Obama, Senator Barack Obama, said:

This isn't an idea designed to get you through the summer, it's an idea designed to get [you] through an election.

In short, this isn't a fix for high gas prices; it is a talking point for political campaigns and candidates.

This is a gimmick to create the illusion of action, while really doing nothing but draining the highway trust fund that we rely upon to build our roads and bridges.

Still, a few of our colleagues in the Senate have offered a bill that would suspend the gas tax through the end of the year. I am sure it comes as no surprise that a majority of the bill's sponsors are on the ballot this year.

For more than a year now, Republicans have warned about the potential consequences of the attack on domestic energy production. We have highlighted the ways the policies could

drive up prices, harm our energy security, and threaten that of our allies. Even as gas prices rose month after month, the Biden administration did nothing. They didn't attempt a mid-course correction. They didn't open this topic up for debate. They just stayed the course.

Back in November, the Secretary of Energy was asked about increasing U.S. oil production. She literally laughed and said:

That is hilarious.

Well, it certainly isn't funny now. Gas prices are now averaging \$4.32 a gallon, and our allies are frantically trying to reduce their reliance on Russian oil and gas, which in many cases is their sole source.

President Biden has tried to pin these problems squarely on Russia and Vladimir Putin, but the American people are smart. They know the truth. They know that high prices predated Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and they know about the war being waged on domestic energy production by some of our colleagues across the aisle.

And they are smart enough to know that you can't believe President Biden when he says you can't do much about it because Russia is responsible.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:32 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion on Executive Calendar No. 718 be withdrawn and that following disposition of the Young nomination, the Senate resume legislative session and proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 305, S.J. Res. 37, with Senator PAUL or his designee in control of 30 minutes and the majority leader in control of the remaining time until 5:30 p.m., and that at 5:30 p.m., all remaining time on the joint resolution be yielded back, the joint resolution be read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION WITHDRAWN

The cloture motion on the nomination of Susan Tsui Grundmann, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2025, was withdrawn.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I yield the floor for a, I hope, happy event to my colleague Senator RUBIO.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

SUNSHINE PROTECTION ACT OF 2021

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, let me cut right to the chase here before I get into a statement.

As if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of S. 623, a bill to make daylight saving time permanent, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 623) to make daylight saving time permanent, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rubio substitute at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5000) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Sunshine Protection Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. MAKING DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME PERMANENT.

(a) REPEAL OF TEMPORARY PERIOD FOR DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME.—Section 3 of the Uniform Time Act of 1966 (15 U.S.C. 260a) is hereby repealed.

(b) ADVANCEMENT OF STANDARD TIME.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The second sentence of subsection (a) of section 1 of the Act of March 19, 1918 (commonly known as the "Calder Act") (15 U.S.C. 261), is amended—

(A) by striking "4 hours" and inserting "3 hours";

(B) by striking "5 hours" and inserting "4 hours";

(C) by striking "6 hours" and inserting "5 hours";

(D) by striking "7 hours" and inserting "6 hours";

(E) by striking "8 hours" and inserting "by 7 hours";

(F) by striking "9 hours" and inserting "8 hours";

(G) by striking "10 hours;" and inserting "9 hours;";

(H) by striking "11 hours" and inserting "10 hours"; and

(I) by striking "10 hours." and inserting "11 hours."

(2) STATE EXEMPTION.—Such section is further amended by—

(A) redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(B) inserting after subsection (a) the following:

"(b) STANDARD TIME FOR CERTAIN STATES AND AREAS.—The standard time for a State that has exempted itself from the provisions of section 3(a) of the Uniform Time Act of 1966 (15 U.S.C. 260a(a)), as in effect on the day before November 5, 2023, pursuant to such section or an area of a State that has exempted such area from such provisions pursuant to such section shall be, as such State considers appropriate—

"(1) the standard time for such State or area, as the case may be, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; or

"(2) the standard time for such State or area, as the case may be, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section as it was in effect on the day before November 5, 2023."

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Such section is further amended, in the second sentence, by striking "Except as provided in section 3(a) of the Uniform Time Act of 1966 (15 U.S.C. 260a(a)), the" and inserting "Except as provided in subsection (b)."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act and the amendments made by this Act take effect on November 5, 2023.

The bill (S. 623) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, as the day goes on, I look forward to others who will be coming to the floor here in a moment. You will see it is an eclectic collection of Members of the U.S. Senate in favor of what we have just done here in the Senate, and that is to pass a bill to make daylight saving time permanent.

Just this past weekend, we all went through that biannual ritual of changing the clock back and forth and the disruption that comes with it. And one has to ask themselves after a while: Why do we keep doing it? Why are we doing this?

This really began back in 1918 as a practice that was supposed to save energy, and since then we have adjusted it.

Today, daylight saving time, which started out as 6 months, was extended to 8 months in 2005, clearly showing you what people's preference was. So we are doing this back-and-forth of clock-changing for about 16 weeks of standard time a year.

Now, I think the majority of the American people's preference is just to stop the back-and-forth changing. But beyond that, I think their preference is, certainly, at least based on today's vote and what we have heard, is to make daylight saving time permanent.

I will just tell you a couple of the reasons why I think that is important. There is some strong science behind it that is now showing and making people aware of the harm that clock-switching has. We see an increase in heart attacks and car accidents and pedestrian accidents in the week that follow the changes.

The benefits of daylight saving time have also been accounted for in the research; for example, reduced crime, as there is light later in the day. We have seen decreases in child obesity, a decrease in seasonal depression that many feel during standard time, and then the practical one and the one that I have witnessed with my own eyes.

In many parts of this country—understand, we are a country where we desperately want our kids to be outside, to be playing, to be doing sports, not just to be sitting in front of a TV or a computer terminal or playing video games all day. And it gets really tough in many parts of the country to be able to do that because what ends up happening is, especially for these 16 weeks a year, if you don't have a park or an outdoor facility with lights, you are basically shut down around 5 p.m., in some places as early as 4, 4:30 p.m. And these lights in parks and things like that are expensive, and then a lot of communities are resistant to them, right?

I have seen it with my own eyes. I have watched sporting events be called—youth sporting events—in the middle or near the end of the game before it has actually concluded because there is not enough light.

So I just think that is one of the practical reasons why, if you look at the way we live in this country, you want to have the ability to spend more time in the evenings outdoors, not just to enjoy the outdoors but to make sporting and outdoor activities available for people at a time when, frankly, we are losing an hour, an hour and a half in some parts of the country because of daylight.

So I am hoping that after today, this will go over to the House, and they will act quickly on it.

I know this is not the most important issue confronting America, but it is one of those issues where there is a lot of agreement, and I think a lot of people wonder why it took so long to get here.

So my hope is that after we are done here today, that the House will take it up; that the House will pass it; and that the President will sign it.

I just want to lay out one caveat. This bill and the amendment does delay its implementation, and the reason why—and I asked. Believe me, I asked: Why are we delaying this? And I think it is important. We are delaying it until November of 2023 because airlines, the rails, transportation methods, others have already built out schedules based on the existing timeline of this. And so they have asked for a few additional months here—from industries like broadcasters and airlines—to make that adjustment.

But the good news is that if we can get this passed, we don't have to keep doing this stupidity anymore. And why we would enshrine this in our laws and keep it for so long is beyond me, but hopefully this is the year that this gets done.

And pardon the pun, but this is an idea whose time has come.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I want to join with the Senator from the Sunshine State, letting him know that the Senator from the Bay State, the

Senator from the Ocean State, we share a common agenda. We bridge ideological divisions—liberal Democrats from the Northeast, conservative Republicans from Florida coming together to show that this institution can work.

And why is that?

Well, it is because we know that daylight saving time helps to turn the corners of people's mouths upward into a smile. It is sunshine and smiles.

We have only had daylight saving time so far for 2 days, but all across the country, people are out in the evening with the extra daylight. Little League can start. People taking their evening walks feel more safe. People can just walk down to the town square, knowing that the daylight is out there.

And so this is something that should be bipartisan. It should bring us all together, and I thank the Senator from Florida for his leadership on this issue.

And so many people are wondering, can the Congress work? And I think here is something that does have a big impact on every American life, and getting that extra hour of daylight of sunshine into people's lives is absolutely essential.

So we have been working, you know, together to, once and for all, deal with this issue of springing forward and falling back, and that is to make daylight saving time permanent.

This past Sunday, Americans had to once again change their clocks, all because of the outdated government policy on daylight saving time. This biannual ritual of toggling between daylight saving time and standard time isn't just an inconvenience to people everywhere, it has real repercussions on our economy and our daily lives.

Studies have found that year-round daylight saving time would improve public health, public safety, energy policy, mental health—an especially important commitment after this cold and dark COVID winter.

Seasonal affective disorder is real, and when they get that extra hour of Sun in the evening, it helps tens of millions of people all across the country to finally put the winter into a rearview mirror. But let's be honest. Spring really starts when we spring forward to daylight saving time.

So daylight saving time brings sunshine, smiles, and savings to every person in the country. And more evening sunshine also leads to fewer traffic fatalities, increased economic activity, and more recreation time. From afterwork shopping to Little League games and family bike rides, an extra hour of evening sunshine puts a spring in our step and offers a great reason to get outside and enjoy the outdoors.

The case for permanent daylight saving time is clear. So let's go from polar to solar. Let's finally make that change in our country because cutting back on the Sun during the fall and winter is a drain on the American people. We must pass the Sunshine Protection Act and make daylight saving time permanent once and for all.

This is an opportunity for Democrats and Republicans to come together and do something that really helps the American people feel better about themselves every single day of the year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am happy to bring the voice of the Ocean State to the floor today as an original cosponsor of Senator RUBIO's bill to make daylight saving time permanent. I hope very much that we can actually agree to this on the floor today and hope for similar action in the House.

Pretty much everybody in Rhode Island experiences the same thing on that unhappy day in early November. It is usually the 6th or the 7th, when suddenly an hour of your day, an hour of your daylight, disappears and dusk comes an hour earlier.

And it is a sad time. People are unhappy. It does darken our lives in a very literal sense. And by the time you get from November, when we fall back, to the shortest day of the year in December, the 21st, I think it is, we have sunset in Rhode Island at 4:15–4:15. That means everybody is driving home, if they work regular 9-to-5 hours—they are driving home in the pitch dark, and there is no real need for it. So let's make it 5:15 instead.

Now, granted, there are people who are up between 6:30 and 7:30 in the morning who will lose their hour of daylight, but there are a lot fewer people up and about between 6:30 and 7:30 in the morning than there are between 4:15 and 5:15 in the afternoon.

And particularly in that afternoon hour, that is when kids have come home from school, and you would like to have them run around outside a little bit more. That is when people are doing errands, and it would be nice if there were some daylight for that.

So I am eager to be rid of "fall back," and this would give us a chance for Americans all across the country to be rid of "fall back" and make daylight saving time permanent and to add a little sunlight into most people's lives.

With that, I will recognize the distinguished chairman of our Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, today, the Senate has finally delivered on something Americans all over the country want: to never have to change their clocks again.

My colleague Senator RUBIO and I have finally passed the Sunshine Protection Act, a bipartisan bill to finally make daylight saving time permanent.

This past weekend, Americans from Washington State to Florida had to lose an hour of sleep for absolutely no reason. This is a burden and a headache we don't need. Any parent who has worked so hard to get a newborn or a toddler on a regular sleeping schedule

understands the absolute chaos changing our clocks creates and for no good reason. There is enough going on as it is, and we can fix this one inconvenience and stress pretty easily.

And if the House follows the lead of the U.S. Senate, we can make it so no one anywhere has to change their clocks by making daylight saving time permanent.

I hope my colleagues in the House and everyone can understand that no one wants to see the Sun set at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, which it currently does in the winter for those of us on the west coast.

In just this Congress, we have passed major bipartisan bills to strengthen supply chains and promote American manufacturing and make a generational investment in our infrastructure. Let's keep up that bipartisanship and make daylight saving time permanent.

Voters throughout the Pacific time zone have made clear they are ready for permanent daylight saving time. In California, Oregon, Idaho, and my home State of Washington, we have all passed laws to adopt permanent daylight saving time as soon as Congress acts. So many other States are on the same page. These States need us to take action at the Federal level.

This is a simple, commonsense measure that we can all take back to our constituents that does away with the completely unnecessary inconvenience in everyone's lives. No more dark afternoons in the winter. No more losing an hour of sleep every spring. We want more sunshine during our most productive waking hours.

I have said it before, and I will say it again: Americans want more sunshine and less depression. People in this country all the way from Seattle to Miami want the Sunshine Protection Act.

We got it passed here in the Senate. Now the clock is ticking to get the job done so we don't have to switch our clocks again.

So I urge my colleagues in the House to act swiftly, as we have done, to get this bill on President Biden's desk and deliver sunshine to Americans across the country.

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. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Let me make it clear to anybody who is watching that they just saw this measure pass. We have just passed the bill to end the return to daylight saving time—to make daylight saving time permanent.

I yield the floor.

With that, 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.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, first of all, I would like to say thanks to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for getting out here today and starting down the road to making daylight saving time permanent.

I cannot overstate how grateful I am that this bill passed this Chamber just a few minutes ago by unanimous consent. It is especially timely given that we all had to change our clocks this past weekend, and we are now experiencing longer, sunnier days, but it would be better news if longer, sunnier days were a new norm and not a cause for a temporary, seasonal celebration, which is why I hope my colleagues in the House of Representatives pass this bill quickly.

The practice of springing forward impacts folks across the Nation and has far-reaching benefits beyond the obvious but enjoyable hour of daylight that brings happy, happy times to everybody.

Alabamians have made this clear. Since I joined Senator RUBIO in the effort to pass the Sunshine Protection Act, the phones in my office have been absolutely ringing off the hook in support of permanently adopting daylight saving time—from moms and dads who want more daylight time before putting their kids to bed so dinnertime doesn't feel like bedtime and from elderly people who want more Sun in the evenings in order to take a walk or enjoy working in their yards. For farmers, who could use the extra daylight to work in the fields, it is a better business model and adds to the bottom line.

But it is not just people in the State of Alabama; Americans across the country want to make daylight saving time permanent. In fact, it is worth noting that this bill has bipartisan support, evidenced by the fact that it passed with no objection here in the Senate mere moments ago. It is no secret how rare that is here in this Chamber.

Locking the clock, or doing away with the twice-a-year time change, is a simple measure that would have far-reaching results. For example, from a health perspective, cases of SAD, or seasonal affective disorder, are much more common in the winter months than in the summer months. From an economic perspective, the time change costs the U.S. economy an estimated \$430 million annually when accounting for lost productivity. It is simply common sense to update this outdated practice.

Daylight saving time began as a temporary measure during World War I to conserve energy, but in the last cen-

tury, our world has changed dramatically. What might have made sense during 1918 does not make sense today. That is why Alabama, along with 17 other State legislatures, has passed legislation or resolutions to flip the switch on this outdated practice and permanently increase our daylight hours, but these changes at the State level cannot take place until a Federal law is passed. We have taken the first step today in the Senate by passing this bill. Now it is on the House's side.

Again, my thanks to Senator RUBIO and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I hope the House acts quickly so we can get this to the President's desk and get the results that the American people want, and that is more sunshine.

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. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

ENERGY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today to talk about American energy.

Joe Biden is the President of high prices and of low approval ratings. Just yesterday, a gallon of gas sold for the highest price ever in the United States, and inflation is at a 40-year high.

Now, the American people clearly understand that radical Democrat energy policies are the cause of these high prices—the prices that people are paying every time they go to the pump to fill up.

On Thursday, the White House admitted, in terms of these high prices, that it is going to get worse. Of course, Democrats are trying to blame Vladimir Putin for the high price at the pump. Well, to me, it is dishonest, and it is desperate. Vladimir Putin didn't cause the inflation crisis that began in this country 12 months ago.

Now, Vladimir Putin has cashed in on America's inflation crisis. He has done it by selling more energy at high prices, and he has done it for more than a year. It has been his cash cow.

America's inflation crisis is specifically the result of Democrat spending and Democrat attacks on American energy. The two combined have added to the situation that we are in now, attacking American energy and massive spending.

Last March, Joe Biden signed the single-most expensive spending bill in American history. Even his own experts warned him not to do it.

Democrat economics expert Larry Summers, who had been Treasury Secretary for President Clinton, warned that this is going to cause inflation. Last February, the former Obama and

Clinton adviser wrote in the Washington Post—this is from Larry Summers:

There is a chance that . . . stimulus on a scale closer to World War II levels . . . will set off inflationary pressures.

He said:

Inflationary pressures of a kind [that] we have not seen in a generation.

He is exactly right. That is what has happened. That is why we are at a 40-year high of inflation, and that is a generation.

Obama adviser Jason Furman said the same thing. He said that bill was “definitely too big.” He said: “I don’t know any economist”—“any,” he said—“who was recommending something the size of what” President Biden was doing.

Yet Joe Biden proved to be hard of hearing, refused to listen to what they had to say, signed the bill anyway, put \$2 trillion on our Nation’s credit card, and he flooded the country with government cash. Ever since then, this country has been in an inflation upward spiral.

At the same time, Joe Biden also had a stranglehold over American energy supply. He announced it during the campaign and enforced it the day he took office.

Energy is called the master resource for a reason. It powers our economy. It powers our military. It powers our Nation. It is critically important. When the price of energy goes up, so does the price of everything else.

Starting on his first day in office, Joe Biden has waged an all-out war on American energy. He shut down the Keystone XL Pipeline, and he bragged about it—no hiding from this one. He shut down oil and gas leases on Federal lands. He bragged about that as well. He shut down exploration for energy in the Arctic.

It was always interesting to see the senior Senator from Alaska, Ms. MURKOWSKI, come to the floor and say over the last year that we are using more energy from Vladimir Putin’s Russia than we are from Alaska, her home State, in terms of oil.

Those are because of Joe Biden’s policies.

Now his lackeys at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission are making it almost impossible to build gas pipelines, to move gas from where it is explored to where it is needed. As a result, we are today actually producing a lot less energy than we were prior to the pandemic.

I heard the White House spokesperson. She talked about the fact that we are at record-high levels. We are not. We are at about 1.3 million barrels of oil a day—fewer now being produced in the United States than we were prior to the pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, we were No. 1 in production in the world. Now we are No. 3, behind Saudi Arabia and behind Russia.

What does lower supply of American energy mean? Well, in supply and demand, lower supply means higher prices.

When Joe Biden took office, a gallon of gas was at \$2.38. It went up every month. Twelve of the last 13 months, the price of gas kept going up at the pump. Twelve of the 13 months that Joe Biden has been in the White House, the price of gas went up.

Meanwhile, Vladimir Putin was laughing all the way to the bank.

Joe Biden must be patting himself on the back right now about banning Russian oil, something that took him kicking and screaming to do after bipartisan Members of the House and the Senate came together and said: You have got to stop doing this.

It took him a couple of extra weeks to come to the realization that this body and the House, in a bipartisan way, were opposed to the delays—the ongoing delays—of this administration.

Now Joe Biden has his latest excuse for inflation. He said it is Vladimir Putin. The American people aren’t buying it. In record numbers, they are not buying what the President is trying to sell.

The American people haven’t forgotten the past year. It has been a year of high prices. It has been a year of misery and pain for families all across the country.

For Joe Biden, it has been a year of excuses. The excuses keep changing, but they are ongoing.

First, he said that inflation was transitory. He said it month after month after month after month.

And, then, remember when he said inflation was a good thing? Then, of course, he blamed corporate greed—always looking for somebody else to blame, always trying to pass the buck. Now he says inflation, which has been crushing American families, was because of Vladimir Putin, just 3 weeks ago.

Mr. President, people have been suffering under inflation, and their wages haven’t been keeping up with the rising prices in this country for well over a year, since you took office. People recognize that. They remember the pain and the suffering in trying to go through Christmas, trying to decide whether they could afford gifts for the family; families who had to decide, living on a fixed income, if they could afford to eat or to heat their homes. That was all before Putin, and they haven’t forgotten, Mr. President. Even though you may not think they remember, they do.

It is now 8 months until there are elections, and I know we are going to hear a lot more excuses from the Democrats in Washington between now and November 8. I expect the excuses are going to change a couple more times. None of the excuses are going to be believable. So they will keep trying to come up with another one.

Inflation sure wasn’t transitory, not for a full year, not to a point where we are now at a 40-year high for inflation.

How about that idea when the President said inflation was a good thing? Actually, we heard it from the White

House Press Secretary. We heard it from the White House Chief of Staff. They said inflation is a sign of high demand.

If our economy is doing so well, why don’t the American people believe it? What kind of fantasyland is the President living in?

According to the Washington Post, Joe Biden’s approval rating on the economy—how well he is doing in the economy—out of 100 points, he is at 37 percent approval. These are record-low numbers.

So Democrats can use their arguments all that they want. I think it just makes Americans want to reject anything the Democrats are trying to sell.

If Democrats are right about corporate greed, then, why have Democrats done nothing about it? They have run Washington for the past full year plus a couple of months. Democrats have had the time to introduce plenty of bills: bills to raise taxes, bills to take over elections, bills to pack the Supreme Court from 9 up to 13 members, bills to make Washington, DC, a State. What can they point to as an accomplishment to actually address and lower inflation? That is what the American people want.

Just this past weekend, studies are out. What is the No. 1 concern of the American people? It is inflation. What are Democrats doing about it? Nothing. They are making it worse.

So we are living in this world where Democrats and the White House continue to spin one story after another, and Democrat spokesmen for the party continue to try to convince the American people: Don’t believe your own two eyes; believe them. The American people are smarter than that.

Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022. It is about a year after the inflation crisis began. It is a great human tragedy, and it is heart-breaking.

Tomorrow, Members of this body will be having a video address by President Zelenskyy, the President of Ukraine, a heroic and courageous individual who is leading his nation with stubborn courage, historic patriotism, fighting for freedom. To try to tie this to the inflation that the American people have been suffering through for the last year is just wrong.

And 2021 was the worst inflation in 40 years, long before Putin invaded Ukraine. By the time Putin invaded Ukraine, gas prices were up in the United States more than \$1 a gallon, and America was more addicted to Russian oil because that is what Joe Biden wanted. He wanted us to need more Russian oil. But that didn’t stop Joe Biden from trying to blame the whole thing on Putin.

Former adviser Steve Rattner put it this way:

This is [Joe] Biden’s inflation and he needs to own it.

Over the weekend, Larry Summers said this:

The president was wrong—

He is talking about Joe Biden.

He said:

The president was wrong to blame this month's [inflation] number on [the war in] Ukraine.

Larry Summers went on to say:

[Everyone] had been expecting, from the time before Putin launched the invasion, that inflation was going to accelerate.

He went on to say:

This is a consequence, fundamentally, of an overheated economy.

He said:

And we are not going to have a full solution until we do something about that overheated economy.

A full year has passed—one year in office, a 40-year high of inflation, and a year full of excuses by a President whose excuses do not add up. What adds up is the fundamental fact that American families spent \$1,000 more on energy during Joe Biden's first year as President than they did the previous year. And it is going to be worse this year.

The time for excuses is over. There is no excuse for restricting American energy production. Democratic Senators spent 10 months denying that there even was inflation and doing nothing about it. Yet now some Democrats in this body are talking about making it even worse. They have introduced multiple bills to raise taxes. Astonishingly, one of the bills they have introduced is to raise taxes on American energy.

They already tried that last year with their reckless tax-and-spending spree. Now, it seems like some of them want to do it again. If we put more taxes on American energy, what is that going to do? It is going to raise the price even higher. Higher costs on producers are going to become higher costs on the customers.

People don't want us to raise costs; they want us to reduce costs. That is what they are complaining about. That is what we have gotten as a result of the Biden policies. We need to break this choke hold that the Democrats and the Biden administration have on American energy.

So how do we do that? Well, 2 weeks ago, I led a letter with every Republican on the Senate Energy Committee, and we sent it to President Biden on the morning after the State of the Union Address. We gave him a list of 10 specific actions that he could take today to produce more American energy and bring down the costs for American families.

Step one would be to end his Executive order on oil and gas leases on Federal lands. Half of my home State of Wyoming is Federal lands. There is an abundance of energy there. The American people need it. It will help reduce costs for families. It will actually bring tax revenue into the government, both the State as well as the Federal Government. Yet Joe Biden is not interested.

Joe Biden's Executive order has no basis in science, no basis in law. It

needs to be rescinded today. The fact that some people have leases to explore for energy—a small number—is no excuse for the President's actions. Over 4,000 leases are awaiting permission to drill right now. They have a lease, but they are tied up in redtape and cannot get permission to drill from the government. So even if you have a lease, you need to then get permission from the government to use the lease. They ought to approve those leases today.

But we need to go further. We need a long-term commitment from the Government of the United States to produce American energy to help American families. Leases take years to explore and to develop. We need a commitment that is going to last long term. No one is going to make those kinds of investments if they think Joe Biden is going to shut them down again the next day.

Now, American energy companies have a lot of good reasons not to trust Joe Biden, not to trust those whom he has—the anointed ones whom he has appointed to high positions in the government.

If you just take a look at Joe Biden's nominees, they are a murderer's row of climate elitists and climate alarmists, and those are the ones that call the tune for this President.

If you took a year of Joe Biden's energy policies and take a look at what has happened over the past year that got us here today and you explain that to the American public and you say: What do you think about this? as they are filling up their tank, two-thirds of them would say: Under these Biden policies—two-thirds would say—the country is heading in the wrong direction.

That may be every Republican. It is also a lot of Independents, and it is also some Democrats as well who have buyer's remorse at what they have gotten from this President. It is going to take time to repair the damage. We need to start today. The time for excuses and blame from this administration needs to be over. The American public is demanding American energy, and we need it now.

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.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

IDITAROD

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I am here on the floor today to make what I consider to be a supercool announcement. I think my colleagues know well that I am a fan of the "Last Great Race," the Iditarod. I am shameless in my promotion of not only the exceptional athleticism of the mushers themselves but the canine athletes.

I say to the Presiding Officer—and as an athlete yourself—I think you can

appreciate the endurance training that it takes to be a qualified and truly an exceptional athlete, and today we are able to celebrate an extraordinary musher and an extraordinary team.

It was just a little over a week ago, last Sunday morning—well, actually it was Saturday—that I was in Anchorage for the ceremonial start of the Iditarod. It takes place downtown in Anchorage. We have to truck snow in. We close off all the downtown streets. Not too many cities actually bring the snow in, but we brought the snow in, dumped it around the streets, and closed the streets.

Mushers come to town from all over the State, 49 mushers this year. They bring their sled dogs in.

Along the sides of the chutes are thousands of Alaskans and thousands of visitors. The people come from around the country and around the world to launch these extraordinary teams down the street. Everybody is all bundled up.

It was one of those days that was just picture perfect for the start of an Iditarod. There were big, huge snowflakes coming down, making everything white.

The dogs were jumping in their traces, just straight up, just bouncing up with excitement, and the yipping and the howling was just—it was excitement that was contagious. And to be out there in the chutes, wishing the racers luck, cheering them on before they embark on their 1,000-mile journey to the north, it is an experience that I would encourage for anyone, whether you are a canine lover or not—those of you who understand the value of working dogs and what they mean, and how they love to do what they do.

The Iditarod is an experience like none other. This was the 50th anniversary. For 50 years now, the Iditarod has been going from South Central in the Willow area all the way up to Nome. Again, 49 teams entered.

These mushers faced some pretty challenging conditions. You are going over terrain that is mountain range and down into gorges. You are on flat glare ice going across Norton Sound, howling winds, driving snow. It is a mental task. It is a physical task and, truly, one of endurance.

Keep in mind that most are thinking: Wait. This is Alaska in the wintertime. It is cold.

But, in fairness, the teams actually prefer to be running at night, when the temperatures are cool. So they are running truly based on the dogs' schedule, the endurance, but not necessarily in the tamest of conditions.

This is not only a race where we celebrate the musher and their team, but we also celebrate the volunteer spirit that comes with this. This is an extraordinary race of over 1,000 miles going through some of the most extreme wilderness that you will encounter.

Then, occasionally, along the way, there are small villages that are used

as checkpoints or opportunities for the many volunteers to basically gather. There is about 1,500 people who volunteer to put this race on. So for those who set the trail markers, who set out there with their snow machines to mark that trail, it is nothing more than like wood markers that you would get at Home Depot or Lowe's, with a little painted orange on it. That is the sophistication of this. This is what guides the team in a blizzard.

The veterinarians are there. Four to five vets cycle through each checkpoint, because each dog needs to be checked every time they go through their checkpoint.

All of these folks come from all around the country to volunteer. They pay for their flights up. They take a week off work, and they are there. They are there to support not only the race, but they are there to support gold-standard canine care.

And so it is also a celebration about the volunteers. This is such a great part of our State's heritage, our culture. Again, you can tell I get a little enthusiastic about it. Even my necklace is a dog sled with a musher on it. So this is the time of year that I like to celebrate it.

So this morning at 5:39 a.m., Alaska standard time—so about 9:30 here in DC—8 days, 14 hours, 38 minutes since beginning a roughly 1,000-mile race, Brent Sass and his team of 11 dogs crossed the finish line.

So here is Brent with his two dogs, yellow roses flown in from—I don't know where those yellow roses came from, but they certainly weren't from Nome, AK.

But that man has traveled with his team for 8 days now, 14 hours, 38 minutes to win the 50th Iditarod.

I had a chance to talk to Brent by phone just about an hour after he went in to Nome. He sounded pretty vibrant, pretty excited, pretty happy.

I had talked to him in the starting gate on Saturday, and I said: Brent, I think this is your time. I think this is your time because you have proved yourself year over year in the Iditarod and certainly in the Yukon Quest.

Brent lives in Eureka, AK, on a homestead that was established back in the 1970s. He is a pretty seasoned musher. He took part in his first Iditarod back in 2012. He got "Rookie of the Year" that year. He is a three-time 1,000-mile Yukon Quest champion.

So the Yukon Quest runs a different race, from Canada into Alaska. It is also a 1000-mile race. It is equally arduous and extraordinarily difficult. He took first place in the Yukon Quest in 2015, 2019, 2020, and also first in this year's abbreviated 350-mile Yukon Quest.

So a couple little quick stories here, because I know I don't have much time, but this guy is pretty exceptional. He is not only a strong competitor, but the care that he provides his dogs is amazing.

One story from 2016: Brent was getting ready to leave the White Mountain

checkpoint. It is about 77 miles from the finish line in Nome. He was teed up here to win third place, and depending on where you are in the rank is how much of the purse you will take home. And if he was going to make third, it was going to be about \$44,000 in prize money. But he is getting ready to leave the checkpoint and his dogs said: Nope, we are not moving.

So think about it. You are that close to \$44,000. You are 77 miles from the finish, and your dogs have said: This has been a long trek, and this is where we are stopping to just rest.

So Brent Sass didn't push those dogs. He waited as they rested, and when they were ready, he took it slow, he took it steady, he brought them to the finish line, and he ended up placing 20th instead of 3rd. And he did that for his team.

And for that, he was recognized twice with the Vet's Choice Award for the care that he shows his dogs.

But it is not just his team that Brent is known for taking care of. He is also known for taking care of his competitors along the trail.

There was a headline a few years back that said "Sass to the Rescue . . . Again."

And time after time, Brent has been highlighted for acts of heroism on the trail. In vicious storms, he has helped mushers and their dog teams reunite after becoming separated on the trail. And keep in mind, there is no rescue team out there. It is you, and if you are lucky enough to have somebody else come upon you—fortunate.

But during one race, a fellow musher was at risk for scratching the race, and instead of leaving him behind, as many competitors might have done, Brent helped him scale Eagle Summit so he could stay in the race.

But one of the most notable rescues took place in 2011 on the trail of the Yukon Quest. Hans Gatt, a four-time champion, was stalled out. He wasn't able to clear the summit. The weather conditions were awful. So Hans did the only thing that he could do, which is to hunker down into a sleeping bag in these horrible winds, the driving cold snow.

Brent's sled comes upon Hans, sees that he is on the verge of hypothermia. He hooks his sled to the back of his own, and he hauls both teams up over the summit. And Brent credits his then-lead dog Silver for guiding them to safety in these awful and harsh conditions. As a result of their teamwork and heroism, the Quest created the Silver Legacy Award in Silver's honor. Brent claims that to be one of the proudest moments of his life.

I wish that I could have been there this morning at 5:39 in Nome to watch Brent cross the finish line as a first-time Iditarod champ with his team. But even from afar, we can hear the Alaskans celebrating Brent for his incredible feat.

So to Brent Sass, we celebrate you. We thank you for the care that you

show your dog team, your character, how you show what it means to be a true competitor and for representing the great State of Alaska so well.

And to all the others that are still on the trail, we wish you well and safety and Godspeed.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF SHALANDA D. YOUNG

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to support the historic nomination of Shalanda Young to be the next Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Ms. Young brings deep experience with the Federal budget process to her role at OMB, having served as staff director of the House Committee on Appropriations. She has been serving as Acting Director of OMB for the past year, and her top-notch performance in that role leaves no doubt that she is eminently qualified to be confirmed as OMB Director.

Ms. Young came into OMB in March 2021, the same month that Congress passed the American Rescue Plan. This was a time when the Nation faced an uncertain future, with coronavirus vaccines just starting to go out and unemployment remaining stubbornly high at 6 percent. Under Ms. Young's leadership, OMB played a key role to implement the American Rescue Plan to fight the pandemic and move our economy forward. The results have been widespread vaccinations, millions of new jobs, unemployment falling to 3.8 percent, and the fastest economic growth in nearly 40 years.

We have achieved a great deal during the first year of the Biden administration, but we must recognize that there is still so much left to accomplish. Shalanda Young is the right person to have at the helm of OMB to craft responsible budgets and turn the policies we craft into actions that make a real difference for the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 2 minutes.

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise in support of Shalanda Young's nomination to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Ms. Young has done an exemplary job serving as OMB's Acting Director for the past year. She is a dedicated public servant and a proven leader.

She has played a key role in the administration's efforts to help the Nation recover from the pandemic. She has worked closely with Congress to pass the historic bipartisan infrastructure package, and she is truly committed to making the Federal Government work better for the American people.

I have absolutely no doubt that Ms. Young is the right choice to lead the OMB going forward. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to confirm Shalanda Young to be the Director of OMB.

VOTE ON YOUNG NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

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

Mr. PETERS. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 61, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 80 Ex.]

YEAS—61

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Blunt	Hoeven	Sanders
Booker	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Burr	Kelly	Shelby
Cantwell	Kennedy	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Sullivan
Cassidy	Lujan	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Van Hollen
Coons	Markey	Warner
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warnock
Cramer	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wicker
Graham	Murray	Wyden
Grassley	Ossoff	
Hassan	Padilla	

NAYS—36

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Inhofe	Rounds
Braun	Johnson	Rubio
Capito	Lankford	Sasse
Cornyn	Lee	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Marshall	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	Moran	Toomey
Ernst	Paul	Tuberville
Fischer	Portman	Young

NOT VOTING—3

Duckworth	Feinstein	Shaheen
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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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION RELATING TO "REQUIREMENT FOR PERSONS TO WEAR MASKS WHILE ON CONVEYANCES AND AT TRANSPORTATION HUBS"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume legislative session and proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 37, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 37) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention relating to "Requirement for Persons To Wear Masks While on Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to S.J. Res. 37, which we are now considering and which we will vote on at 5:30.

This is a resolution that would use the CRA process to undo the CDC guidance requiring use of masks on transportation: planes, buses, trains, and some transportation hubs.

I think this is an issue that should be discussed, and, possibly, to use a medical metaphor, a scalpel should be used to make it just right. Unfortunately, the CRA process is a meat cleaver, and this is not the kind of thing we should be using a meat cleaver against.

If S.J. Res. 37 passes, it could lead us to be extremely vulnerable if there were a resurgence in coronavirus cases, as we are seeing in other nations like Germany.

Let me explain. The CDC imposed a mandate to wear masks on transportation in February of 2021—again, planes, buses, trains, and train and bus stations, as well as airports.

We all know that the CDC has recently examined the caseload of COVID-19 in the country and dropped their mask recommendations for most of the Nation. About 98 percent of the American population now live in communities where there is no mask recommendation, thank goodness—not even indoors. That is great.

But in some parts of the country, some parts of my Commonwealth, infection rates are still so high that the mask recommendation for wearing indoors is still one that the CDC strongly recommends.

The CDC mandate, with respect to masks on transportation, was set to expire on March 18, Friday. On Friday, March 18, it was set to expire. After the CDC dropped the recommendation about wearing masks indoors, the CDC decided to extend the mask requirement on transportation for 1 month, from March 18 to April 18.

Why did they do that when they were dropping the mask recommendation indoors for much of the country? Well, the reason was pretty obvious, and they explained it.

Here is the problem with transportation: You might board a bus, plane, or train in an area with low infection but pass through areas of high infection and end up in an area of high infection. So transportation is a little bit different than what should the rules be in an indoor venue in my hometown of Richmond or in communities in Connecticut, where the Presiding Officer lives.

So what the CDC said is, we are going to take an additional month, and we are going to analyze the science around closed spaces—transportation venues—and we are going to look at this issue of traveling from one community to another, and then we will come up with a best recommendation and best guidance with respect to mask mandates in transportation. That sounds very reasonable to me, very reasonable to extend the mask requirement by 1 month.

I would argue to my colleague Senator PAUL—this is his resolution—we should be weighing in with the CDC and giving them best guidance—and, obviously, they are considering what science is recommending; they are in dialogue with the transportation industry that has strong feelings about that—and then seeing what guidance the CDC comes up with in April before the April 18 deadline, to which they have extended.

That would be reasonable, but what this resolution does is not reasonable. It not only wipes out the mask requirement; it wipes it out forever. It states that the CDC no longer will have the authority to impose a mask requirement in transportation unless or until this body passes new legislation allowing them to do so.

That legislation in the Senate would require 60 votes. I would venture to argue that there is no way, in the politicization of COVID, that a piece of legislation giving the CDC the power to do mask mandates in transportation would get 60 votes in this Chamber.

So if S.J. Res. 37 passes, we will have taken away from our premier health authorization the ability to impose a mask mandate if it is necessary.

Now, I pray that it is not necessary. I am happy to see the reduction in COVID caseloads in Virginia and across much of the Nation. But there are parts of Virginia where the caseloads are still high and where masks are still recommended. And there are parts of every one of our States or Commonwealths where the infection rates are still high, and masks are still recommended.

So it is fine to wish that COVID is going away. I mean, Lord, do we all wish that it is going away, but we know that in some parts of the country it isn't. And we also know, if we are looking at the data internationally, that China is experiencing a significant upsurge; Germany is experiencing a significant upsurge.

So what if—what if—we face a new COVID variant that starts to wreak havoc on us, just as Delta did when we thought we were in a decline, just like Omicron did when we thought we were in a decline? What if there is a new variant that comes and starts to wreak havoc more broadly across the country? Wouldn't we want the CDC to have the power immediately, upon an upsurge of COVID nationally, to impose a mask requirement on transportation? If S.J. Res. 37 passes, they will not have the ability to do that.

And what might be the consequences of that? The consequences could be very severe in terms of people's health. We know that. We have experienced now close to a million deaths to COVID. But it also could have severe economic consequences.

Our transportation infrastructure—public transit and buses and trains and planes—is a critical backbone of the American economy, which is now starting to grow and add jobs, thank goodness. But if COVID hits again, and CDC does not have power to impose a mask mandate, many people who use transportation to get to work or to travel to places where they can do their work will no longer feel confident in their ability to do so. Many employees who work in the transportation sector will worry about being exposed to rising COVID case levels and may choose not to work.

So the consequences of another COVID surge in this country are not only health consequences, but they are critical potential consequences to our economy at a time, after 2 years, when, finally, we are seeing some significant GDP growth and job growth and wage and salary growth.

So I would urge my colleagues, don't use a meat cleaver, when this mask mandate is set to expire on April 18. It is barely more than a month away. Don't use the meat cleaver to bar the CDC from taking necessary public health action should there be a resurgence in COVID. Instead, let's work with the CDC and see what guidance they come up with for this April 18 deadline. That would be much better for our public health and much better for our economy.

So for those reasons, I would urge my colleagues strongly to stand with smart economic policy and wise public health policy and not eliminate the ability of the Nation's premier public health Agency from imposing a transportation mask requirement should public health demand it.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, there is a very distinct possibility that the mask mandates saved no lives. There is a very distinct possibility that the mask mandates did not change the trajectory or incidence of the coronavirus pandemic. In fact, there is a distinct possibility that mask mandates were simply coercive security theater that did not enhance the public safety at all.

While the efficacy of masks is debatable, the question of whether or not the Federal Government possesses the power to mandate that you wear a mask is not debatable. The 10th Amendment clearly states that powers not specifically enumerated by the Constitution for the Federal Government are retained by the States and the people respectively.

In *United States v. Lopez*, the 10th Amendment is affirmed. The Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution with-

holds from Congress the plenary power that would authorize enactment of every type of legislation. The Supreme Court went on to say that allowing the Federal Government a general police power of the sort retained by the States would violate the principle that the Federal Government is one of enumerated and limited powers.

Furthermore, no statute exists that remotely conveys a power to mandate masks to any Department of the Federal Government. Yet, since March of 2020, unelected bureaucrats from the Centers for Disease Control have incessantly declared that we should "follow the science" and submit to their mandates. But those bureaucrats defy science and practice something closer to sorcery.

For 2 years, they have incanted the magic word "emergency," which they believe conjures up special powers that require each one of us to wear face masks they tell us have talismanic qualities. The only problem with this assertion is that none of it is true. The CDC does not have limitless authority during emergencies, and masks are not effective at preventing the spread of COVID-19.

This, after all, is the same Agency that decided merely by uttering the word "emergency" that it empowered itself to tear up every rental contract in America. Fortunately, the Supreme Court put the CDC in its place, saying that it "imposed a nationwide moratorium on evictions in reliance on a decades-old statute that authorizes it to implement measures like fumigation and pest extermination. It strains credulity to believe that this statute grants the CDC the sweeping authority that it asserts."

But the CDC has yet to learn its lesson. For a third time, the CDC extended the mandate, forcing everyone wishing to exercise their right to travel to wear a mask. The mask, to the CDC, is effectively a passport. Those who work for airlines are compelled to incessantly remind paying customers not only to wear a mask while we board but in between bites and in between sips. "Sir, please put your mask on in between peanuts. Sir, after each peanut, please put your mask on." The absurdity.

Is it any wonder that the Federal Aviation Administration has logged a surge in reports of bad passenger behavior? According to the FAA, nearly two-thirds of the more than 800 reports of unruly passengers this year have been related to masks. Thus, the CDC's mandate is a safety risk to airline employees and passengers alike.

The populace, which has been pushed around too far for too long, no longer sees a flight attendant entrusted to make travel more comfortable but, rather, a border guard who polices the unfriendly skies. And who can blame them when the head of Delta Airlines wants to put the names of vocal opponents of mask mandates on a no-fly list, a place we had supposedly reserved for those suspected of terrorism?

Perhaps we shouldn't be surprised that, as all 50 States either dropped or plan to drop the mask mandates, the CDC stubbornly perpetuates its mandates.

The history of the last 2 years is a history of the CDC making recommendations despite the evidence, not because of it. From the beginning, the CDC has ignored the scientific data that demonstrated the ineffectiveness of masks.

At the beginning of the pandemic, Dr. Fauci advised Americans to refrain from wearing masks, but as we were so often told, the science has changed—except that it really hasn't. At least 30 studies demonstrate that masks have little to no impact on transmission, including those that predate the emergence of COVID, which highlight the lack of effectiveness of masks outside the hospital setting.

In May 2020, an article by researchers at Harvard Medical School published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* not only held that "wearing a mask outside health care facilities offers little, if any, protection from infection" but that one of its few useful functions would be to serve as a reminder of "other infection-control measures."

The article went so far as to state that masks are not only tools but they are also talismans that may help increase healthcare workers' perceived sense of safety. In other words, the masks are a placebo. They might not do anything, but at least they can trick people into thinking they are protected.

Unfortunately for those who support mask mandates, the article went on to warn that "focusing on universal masking alone may, paradoxically, lead to more transmission of COVID-19 if it diverts attention from implementing more fundamental infection-control measures."

Translation: The mere symbolic benefit of universal masking comes with the cost of a false sense of security, which potentially risks further spread. For example, imagine the 80-year-old husband who chooses to wear a cloth mask to take care of his COVID-stricken wife. The CDC has prompted him to believe that wearing a cloth mask will keep him safe, when in reality this misinformation has prompted him to engage in risky behavior.

Among the reasons why masks have such poor results outside a hospital is user error. About a year after the initial reports of COVID cases, a large controlled study of about 8,000 participants was published by the Public Library of Science. That study found that face masks "did not seem to be effective against laboratory-confirmed viral respiratory infections nor against clinical respiratory infection," which was likely due to poor adherence to the protocol.

People simply cannot replicate the hospital setting at all times, in all locations. Even N95 masks cannot help a person who does not know how to use

it. Multiple studies show surgical and cloth masks are not effective in reducing transmission.

In November 2020, a Danish study published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* found that high-quality surgical masks failed to demonstrate significant reductions in confirmed viral transmissions. This is a large study. This is a randomized controlled study in Denmark with thousands of people who wore masks and thousands of people who didn't wear masks. And—guess what—they had the same incidence of disease.

Additionally, a randomized trial in Bangladesh found that cloth masks did not have a statistically significant effect on COVID transmission.

But we should not be surprised by these results because we have known the limitations of masks for a long time. A 2015 Vietnamese study of 1,600 participants found that cloth masks allowed 97 percent penetration of particles. They took sodium chloride particles the same size as a virus, and they blew them through a cloth mask, and they got 97 percent of the particles on the other side of the mask. They didn't work.

A 2019 study from Nepal found that the pore size of the cloth mask—the opening that air goes through in the cloth mask, the pore size—ranged from 80 to 105 micrometers, but the size of the COVID particle is only 0.12 micrometers. That means that the pores in the cloth masks are more than 650 times as big as the COVID particles.

Science.

If the virus is 650 times smaller than the pore, it is not going to work.

Wearing a mask to stop COVID is like trying to catch flies with a chain link fence. The virus can simply travel right through and around the mask.

And what was Dr. Fauci's prescription, after studying and concluding that masks were ineffective? Wear two masks. He is wearing masks all over his face. Just another one. If only we had four masks, maybe we would be safe. That is not science; that is theater.

The CDC announced that it would look into two masks, but we never heard back from them. A few days later, even Fauci conceded there is no evidence that double masking is going to make a difference. I guess he was just wearing it for style.

Actually, there is data even on double masking, just not the kind likely to be approved by Dr. Fauci. A study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in late 2020 monitored nearly 2,000 marine recruits who were subjected to anti-infection measures, including double masking.

What did it find? It found several incidences of COVID still being transmitted despite the double masks. Yet our President, our Governors, and our mayors routinely lectured us to "just wear the damn mask." Now, 2 years later, what benefits did we get from all that masking? Not a damn thing.

A 2021 study published in the *International Research Journal of Public Health* found that there was no association between mask mandates imposed by the respective States and reduced spread of COVID-19. The study verifies what we have seen in the real world.

If you look at mask mandates that were put on State by State or country by country and you compare that to the incidence of the disease, there is no relation. In fact, often the relation is inverse.

Here you have California and Florida. In Florida, if you have been down there—look, even AOC goes to Florida because they won't make you wear a mask. You can do what you want. Nobody has been wearing a mask for 2 years in Florida. California: If you are paddle boarding by yourself, they will send the Coast Guard after you. If you are jogging on the beach in California by yourself, they will arrest you.

Wildly different mandates, yet this is the infection curve for California and Florida. It is the same. Death curves, infection curves, there is no evidence that any State mandate changed anything. In fact, if your objective—at the end of this pandemic, people are going to discover—I don't know if they will ever admit this—that the truth of the matter is nothing that man did other than the vaccine and natural infection, accumulated immunity from both natural and from vaccine sources, slowed this down, as well as the mutation of the virus.

Plexiglass—give me a break. You think the virus doesn't go in and around your plexiglass? We spend millions of dollars on stickers: Stand 6 feet apart. You are on the plane 2 inches from people for 2 hours, and then what do they say?

Please, as you exit the plane, we are going to practice social distancing.

And you can stand 6 feet away from the person you have been 2 inches from for the last 6 hours.

It is "Moronville." It is medieval. They knew more about infectious disease in the medieval ages than they do in today's modern age with the government directing this.

But despite very different mask policies, California and Florida ended up with about the identical outcome. Ashish Jha, dean of Brown University School of Public Health, who provided one of these charts on Twitter, noted that the infection rates for California, which had a mask mandate, and Florida, which did not, have "strikingly similar" infection rates—specifically, 9.5 percent for Florida, 9.54 percent for the draconian mandates of California. They were the same. One place had no freedom; one place had their freedom—and the rate of disease was the same.

Is nobody willing to really look at the science? Are we willing to submit to wearing masks forever?

As journalist Jacob Sullum pointed out, if you compare California to Texas, another populous State that had

no mask mandates, the case trends also are very similar. The same basic pattern was discovered in almost every State. In short, States with mask mandates fared no better than States without them.

Unsurprisingly, nationwide, masks did not prevent transmission or even death. This is a chart looking at the death rate and with the mask mandates. So the dotted line is the mask mandate. Oh, my goodness, we put a mask mandate on, and many more people began to die. Did the masks cause death? No. They just are unrelated. But if you are trying to prove that a mask mandate lessened death, there is no evidence of it. Death went up and then down and then up and down again.

The trends on death, the trends on incidence have nothing to do with plexiglass; they have nothing to do with stickers; they have nothing to do with masks. Yet we did all of these things in medieval fashion.

In the 14th century, the Pope burned incense. They thought they could protect themselves from plague. People wore garlic around their neck, even up to World War I. It didn't work; except the garlic did probably scare some people and keep them away from you.

When the CDC reversed itself—again—in July 2021 and recommended that vaccinated people—who they said didn't have to wear a mask—now had to wear a mask again, the death rate, which had been going down for months, sharply rose again. No relationship unless it is inverse—unless putting on the mask caused the death rate to get worse, there is no relationship between mask mandates and lessening the incidence or lessening death. This is, sadly, yet more evidence that masks do not prevent transmission of disease that, for some, proves deadly.

It has distracted us. We have been distracted and actually comforted by something that is not working. And we have been tricked into engaging in risky behavior: wearing a mask thinking we are safe. With 80 percent of people wearing a mask, most of them are still getting infected. They have been vaccinated, and they are wearing a mask and still getting infected. Maybe we ought to reassess.

Despite all of this evidence, the CDC still cannot bring itself to end its travel mandate. Is it any wonder why this Agency lost so much credibility over the last 2 years? They have lost their credibility because they have treated every American as if we all have the same level of COVID risk.

Because of this approach, our children have suffered the most from the CDC's unscientific mandates. The CDC guidance on school masking is as aggressive as it can get, recommending universal indoor masking by all students aged 2 and older, staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools—regardless of vaccination status. With the CDC calling the shots across the country, kids have not experienced a normal day of school for 2 years. Schoolchildren

have to wear masks all day, which results in complaints of difficulty breathing, headaches, acne, anxiety, and depression.

And by covering the lower half of the face, we have robbed the students of effective visual communication. So profound has been the change in our learning that we have now changed the definition for adequate number of words for children to know. It used to be 50 for normal development; we changed it to 30 because they can't see the faces to mimic people. For people who are hearing impaired, they have even more difficulty if they can't see the lips.

Here is really the big insult of insults. We go to the State of the Union. Now, we have these elderly Senators and these elderly Congressmen, and, finally, they are free of their masks. They take their masks off, and your 4-year-old at home—the chance your 4-year-old dies of COVID is 1 in 2.32 million. They are going to be struck by lightning before they get COVID and die—but these old guys are fine now. They are a thousand times more likely to die from COVID, but they are fine with no mask; but your 4-year-old has to wear a mask—no logic whatsoever in this, no science involved in this. But it is authoritarians run amuck.

Sweden took a dramatically different approach. Swedish schools remained open for the majority of the pandemic and wore no masks—1.8 million kids, not one of them died. If you look at the incidence of the disease among teachers—you say, “We have to put masks on the kids or the teachers will die.”

In Sweden, no masks on the kids and the incidence of disease among the teachers is the same as every other profession in Sweden—no difference. There were lower death rates there than in the U.S. But the one thing the Swedes did not suffer is their test scores were not lower. Their test scores are up, and no one is concerned about the lost years of education or mental development.

Mask mandates on planes don't make any more sense than mask mandates in school. While testifying before the Senate Commerce Committee, Southwest CEO Gary Kelly said that 99.97 percent of airborne pathogens are captured by the airplane filtration system, and it is turned over every 2 to 3 minutes. I think the case is very strong that masks don't add much, if anything, in the air cabin environment.

This is from the CEO of Southwest.

It is very safe and very high quality compared to any other indoor setting.

United Airlines CEO Scott Kirby added that, in fact, air quality on planes is safer than an “intensive care unit” and that sitting next to someone on a plane “is the equivalent of being 15 feet away from them in a typical building.”

It is not just airline CEOs who agree that mask mandates do not make sense. When discussing mask policy, even CNN, even the doctors on CNN—the radical disciples of Dr. Fauci—now

admit that cloth masks are nothing more than facial decoration and the responsibility should shift from a government mandate to an individual mandate. When the leftwing doctors on CNN are getting it, really, you would think the CDC might wake up. Doctors, scientists, airline CEOs are all presented with the science, and those who are all truthful will tell you that the mask mandates are nothing more than COVID theater.

But the mandates have been more like a curse. Think about what you have lost: Fathers were not there and allowed to see their babies born; mothers have given birth to babies alone; our children have fallen behind in education and mental development; weddings were postponed and ceremonies were drastically scaled back; many of us were deprived of one final goodbye to a dying loved one.

We are about to return to normal, and it can't happen soon enough. We are about to get our lives back, to get our liberty, and our pursuit of happiness back. But it won't happen until we finally wake up and say the science doesn't indicate this; until this body that supposedly represents the people votes to say: Enough is enough—enough of the theater, enough of the pseudoscience. Let's let people make their own decisions. But the CDC says no. It has extended again the travel mandate. We have another month of this.

But people are upset. I don't care whether you are a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent. There are Democrat moms, Independent moms, Republican moms and dads frustrated at their 4-year-old, their 6-year-old going to school for a nonfatal disease—nonfatal to children. Meanwhile, elderly Congressmen and Senators are now running around without their mask on, and they have no problem, but they are going to make your kid wear a mask. It makes no sense.

Now is our chance to say, Enough is enough. We have it within our power today to assure the American people that we are irreversibly going back to normal. We can tell our constituents that the unscientific mask mandates are on the way out once and for all. For once, we can follow the science and put an end to the travel mask mandates.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, we finished up some three or four townhalls this weekend, bringing us, I think, over nine. And I will tell you this, Americans know they are being lied to. They know the decisions coming out of the White House and the CDC are politically driven. Let me tell

you this for sure: Kansans are mad, and they are upset, and they know this lie is continuing, and their anger continues to grow. And at the end of every townhall, I can tell you, two or three people will grab me and say: Please, please keep fighting for our freedoms.

This is what else they tell me. They tell me they don't trust the CDC anymore, that the CDC has lost their reputation; and I am telling you, it will be difficult for them to ever get it back.

Now, they are being told that we have to wear masks on airplanes for another month or so—another horrible decision coming from the White House, more ill advice from the CDC. And all the time we know that these masks—with these masks comes a psychosocial downfall, that it creates problems. But the CDC continues to lust for control—to control our lives and exert their control over us, over me, over our children and our grandchildren.

My concern is this: The CDC continues to make decisions as if they are in a vacuum without consideration of the big picture.

Let's just take a moment and talk about where we are today. Ninety-five percent of Americans have some level of immunity—95 percent. New infections are down 94 percent, hospitalizations down over 80 percent. As far as we know, there is no new variant of concern anywhere in the world that is rearing its ugly head right now.

What do we truly know about the science and the benefits of wearing a mask? What do you know about the risk of wearing a mask? Well, I asked the CDC that same question, I am sure, over a year ago now. I asked them for the studies that support their recommendation to wear masks—some 80 studies. I looked at every one of them. I would say half of them weren't worth the paper they were printed on—poor scientific quality, cherry-picking data—but most were still very inconclusive.

A few suggested masks might help if they are worn perfectly, if it is the right type of mask. Some of the studies even said that masks were harmful.

Now, I will acknowledge that in a perfect world that, for a brief period of time, wearing an N95 mask properly could theoretically give a person benefit. But we now know and have now proven that cloth masks have offered little benefit, and they may actually make viruses and infections more common.

Does the CDC really believe masking would help in an airplane? And if they did so, why wouldn't they suggest we wear N95 masks, and why do they allow cloth masks? It just seems very inconsistent.

The big problem is always compliance. Seatbelts don't work unless you wear them. An airbag on the car doesn't work unless you have it turned on. Just look around. Nobody can wear these masks for hours and hours at a time without touching their nose and touching their mouth and adjusting

the mask. Then we take it off to eat and to drink just for moments at a time. In the real world, it doesn't make any sense that the mask would work and certainly not in schools. I think that has been well-proven.

I think we look at Sweden as a country whose mortality is a fraction of ours from the COVID virus, a fraction of its neighboring countries—a country that had very limited use of masks without mandates as well.

I think the big opportunity with airlines is they made a big investment in air exchange. We know air exchange works. From our experiences in surgical centers, we know that when we moved to the modern air exchangers, that a number of infections—post-op infections for joint replacements—went down significantly. We always knew the air replacement was a big part of this.

But, no, this administration continues to want to control our lives. Their healthcare infectious disease czar, Dr. Fauci, decreed that even after airline executives gave testimony that masks were of no benefit, Dr. Fauci decreed that he didn't think masks would ever come off on airplanes. Why? Why would he make such a bombastic, ignorant claim?

It is time to stop all the mandates. It is time to stop all the travel mask mandates. It is time to let our people go.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON S.J. RES. 37

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all time is yielded back.

The clerk will read the title of the joint resolution for a third time.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 57, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 81 Leg.]

YEAS—57

Barrasso	Cornyn	Grassley
Bennet	Cortez Masto	Hagerty
Blackburn	Cotton	Hassan
Blunt	Cramer	Hawley
Boozman	Crapo	Hoeven
Braun	Cruz	Hyde-Smith
Burr	Daines	Inhofe
Capito	Ernst	Johnson
Cassidy	Fischer	Kelly
Collins	Graham	Kennedy

Lankford	Portman	Sinema
Lee	Risch	Sullivan
Lummis	Rosen	Tester
Manchin	Rounds	Thune
Marshall	Rubio	Tillis
McConnell	Sasse	Toomey
Moran	Scott (FL)	Tuberville
Murkowski	Scott (SC)	Wicker
Paul	Shelby	Young

NAYS—40

Baldwin	Hirono	Romney
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Canwell	Leahy	Smith
Cardin	Lujan	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Van Hollen
Casey	Merkley	Warner
Coons	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	
Hickenlooper	Reed	

NOT VOTING—3

Duckworth	Menendez	Shaheen
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The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 37) was passed as follows:

S.J. RES. 37

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention relating to "Requirement for Persons To Wear Masks While on Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs" (86 Fed. Reg. 8025 (February 3, 2021); determined through a letter of opinion from the Government Accountability Office dated December 14, 2021, and printed in the Congressional Record on December 15, 2021, on pages S9206-S9208, that the order is a rule under the Congressional Review Act), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The Senator from Rhode Island.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and that I be recognized for up to 20 minutes.

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

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER DONALD R. CRUTCHFIELD

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I request unanimous consent to enter into a colloquy with the Senator from Oklahoma.

As the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, we rise to commemorate and celebrate the distinguished career of Chief Warrant Officer Donald R. Crutchfield of the U.S. Army.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, for 24 years, Chief Crutchfield has served the nation with honor and professionalism. Now, as he retires from his post as Assistant Director for General and Flag Officer Matters in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel and Policy, we are privileged to thank him for his decades of service.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, a native of Ohio, Don joined the Army in 1998 and has worked at every echelon since, from the 516th Personnel Services Battalion; multiple brigades; III Corps; Office of the Vice Director of the Army Staff; Headquarters of the Department of the Army; and the Army General Officer Management Office. In every assignment, he was known to his colleagues as a dedicated leader and an expert of his craft.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, in addition to extensive service around the country, Don also deployed overseas three times, including 13 months in Iraq in 2004, 9 months in Afghanistan in 2012, and 8 months in Kuwait in 2014. He answered the call to duty time and time again with absolute selflessness, and we all live in a safer and more prosperous nation because of Americans like him.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, Don did not serve alone, however. Throughout his career, he was supported by his family, friends, and colleagues. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Don's wife, Christine, and his daughters, Amber and Lydia, who supported him with strength and love. His contributions to the Nation were possible because of their support.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, we are proud to honor the achievements of Chief Warrant Officer Donald Crutchfield, and, on behalf of a grateful nation, we salute his service. We offer him our thanks and congratulate him on a well-earned retirement.

NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this March, as we mark National Kidney Month, we have the opportunity to remember those we have lost to kidney-related illnesses, recognize the work we have done to combat kidney diseases, and recommit to continue and expand on these efforts to improve the care available to those who are suffering.

Kidney disease is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States. Today, more than 37 million Americans have chronic kidney disease. One in three adults is at risk of developing chronic kidney disease, which can lead to kidney failure or end-stage renal disease, an irreversible condition that is fatal without a kidney transplant or dialysis. In Maryland alone, almost 93,000 Medicare patients have been diagnosed with chronic kidney disease, and almost 10,000 of these individuals are currently on dialysis.

As with many health issues, communities across the Nation do not suffer from kidney disease equally. Black Americans make up 35 percent of the people with kidney failure in the United States, despite only making up 13 percent of the U.S. population. Hispanic Americans are 1.3 times more likely to be diagnosed with kidney failure than non-Hispanics. End-stage renal disease is 3.7 times more likely in Black Americans, 1.4 times more likely

in Native Americans, and 1.5 more likely in Asian Americans than in White Americans. Patients of color also wait longer than White patients to receive a deceased donor transplant and are less likely to receive a living donor transplant.

While progress is often too slow, in the past year alone, we have made significant steps to understand and address factors leading to the overrepresentation of certain populations with chronic kidney disease. Following research from the National Kidney Foundation and the American Society of Nephrology, institutions like the University of Maryland Medicine ended the outdated use of race as a factor in diagnosing chronic kidney disease. This change will lead to earlier diagnosis and treatment of Black Americans.

Not surprisingly, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on those with severe chronic medical conditions like kidney disease. Patients with chronic kidney disease or end-stage renal disease are often immunocompromised, especially those on dialysis or taking immunosuppressive medicines as part of the process for a kidney transplant. Consequently, people with kidney disease are at a higher risk of developing a more severe case of, and dying from, COVID-19.

Last year, I reintroduced the Chronic Kidney Disease Improvement in Research and Treatment Act with Senator BLUNT. This legislation takes important steps to expand kidney disease awareness and education, improve the accuracy and transparency of end-stage renal disease quality programs, incentivize innovation in dialysis care, and expand patient choices of insurance coverage.

Nearly one-half of the people suffering from chronic kidney disease do not know they have kidney disease because of inadequate screening programs and a lack of awareness about the disease. My legislation would expand Medicare's annual wellness benefit to include kidney disease screening for at-risk patients and improve access to pre-dialysis kidney education programs to better manage patients' kidney disease—an effort that, in some cases, could actually prevent kidney failure and reduce the \$153 billion Medicare spends on care for kidney patients.

To address health equity issues in chronic kidney disease, my legislation would also require the Department of Health and Human Services to submit a report to Congress on national kidney transplantation rates and make recommendations on prevention and treatment for communities disproportionately affected by kidney failure.

Further, my legislation would expand choices in health insurance coverage to those with end-stage renal disease by guaranteeing access to Medigap policies to all end-stage renal disease Medicare beneficiaries, regardless of

age. Currently, Medicare patients under 65, whether disabled or end-stage renal disease beneficiaries, do not have access to Medigap plans, even though Medicare is their primary insurance.

The best treatment for kidney failure is kidney transplantation from a living donor, but only a third of kidney transplants are of this type. Over 100,000 Americans are on the transplant waitlist with 90,000 of them waiting for a kidney. Only 24,000 kidneys were transplanted in 2021. The average wait time for a deceased donor kidney transplant is 5 years but can be as long as 10 years in some States. But with the direct donation from a living donor, the average time is 3-6 months. Sadly, 114 patients in Maryland died while on the waitlist in 2021. This is why I am also a cosponsor of the Living Donor Protection Act, which works to remove barriers to organ donation and protect the rights of and prohibit discrimination against organ donors, with the goal of increasing the number of living donors.

Although the scientific understanding of kidney disease has progressed immensely, significant gaps persist, and treatment has remained largely the same. Research on kidney failure is underfunded compared with the costs of treating chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease. I am proud of what the National Institutes of Health and other Maryland-based research institutions have done to combat kidney disease and other kidney-related illnesses. There is more to do, however, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to fight kidney diseases and bring relief to the millions of Americans who suffer from them.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL KENNETH FRANKLIN MCKENZIE, JR.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor U.S. Marine Corps General Kenneth Franklin McKenzie, Jr., commander of U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, FL. General McKenzie is one of our Nation's finest military officers, and he will retire from Active military service on April 1, 2022, with nearly 43 years of distinguished service to our great Nation.

General McKenzie, a native of Birmingham, AL, graduated from The Citadel in 1979 and was commissioned into the Marine Corps as an infantry officer. During his distinguished career, General McKenzie commanded at the platoon, company, battalion, Marine Expeditionary Unit, service component, and combatant command levels. As a lieutenant colonel, he commanded First Battalion, Sixth Marines. As the commanding officer of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), he led combat deployments to Afghanistan in 2004 and Iraq from 2005 to 2006. From 2006 to 2007, General McKenzie served as the Military Secretary to the 33rd and 34th Commandants of the Marine Corps.

As a general officer, he served on the Joint Staff as a Deputy Director of Operations within the National Military Command Center. He was also selected by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to be the Director of the Chairman's New Administration Transition Team, where he coordinated the efforts of the Joint Staff and the combatant commands during a wartime transition of administrations. General McKenzie later assumed command of the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Central Command, and most recently took command of U.S. Central Command, a position he has held since 2019.

General McKenzie is an honors graduate of the Army Armor Officer Advanced Course, Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and the School of Advanced Warfighting. In 1999, he was selected as a commandant of the Marine Corps Fellow and served as a senior military fellow within the Institute for National Strategic Studies at the National Defense University.

At a time of great uncertainty in the world, particularly in the Middle East, General McKenzie led U.S. Central Command through multiple momentous events while deterring Iran, defeating ISIS, and securing the region. General McKenzie is an exceptional leader, selfless servant, and American patriot who is committed to our Nation and our interests. With profound admiration and deep respect, we pay tribute for all he has done for the defense of our Nation for more than four decades.

Today, I am honored to recognize General McKenzie's long and decorated career. On behalf of a grateful nation, I commend General McKenzie for his dedicated service to the United States of America. I also wish to recognize the sacrifices and contributions made by General McKenzie's wife, Marilyn, as well as their son, K.R., daughter-in-law, Kristin, and two grandsons, Noah and James. We are a nation truly indebted to all of the servicemembers, veterans, and military families who continue to give so much to defend our American values and liberties. I extend my best wishes to General McKenzie and his family on the occasion of his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JIM LAZARUS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend and senior member of my team, Jim Lazarus, upon his recent retirement from public service. Jim has been a key adviser to me, in official roles and otherwise, for the past 40 years, and I wish him all the very best in retirement.

Jim has spent nearly 50 years of dedicated service to San Francisco and the people of California. After graduating from American University and the University of Santa Clara Law School, he was admitted to the California Bar in 1974 and went to work for Governor Jerry Brown where he, among other things, made strides in protecting the

rights of farmworkers. He then served as the deputy city attorney for the city of San Francisco when I was serving on the board of supervisors.

After a few years in private practice, I was lucky enough to bring Jim back to city hall in 1983 as executive deputy mayor for finance and administration. Jim helped run San Francisco, managing our operations and keeping us in good financial shape. Jim has said, "The best job I ever had was the years I was deputy mayor to Feinstein, a great job if you're a San Franciscan and love the city." And I will add to that: The City of San Francisco benefited greatly from Jim's legal acumen and management during that critical time.

Jim served in a variety of public and civic positions after that, including with the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, Hunters Point Citizens Advisory Committee, chief of staff to Mayor Frank Jordan, and even chief operating officer of the San Francisco Zoological Society.

Wherever there was a need to solve a problem, Jim was ready and willing to go. It was my good fortune to have him come back to my office in 1999 as State director for my Senate operation. In that role, he oversaw the staff across our State offices and advocated for California's needs in the U.S. Senate.

Unfortunately, Jim was a rolling stone and returned to the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce in 2006, where he remained for 13 years as senior VP for public policy.

Anyone who knows San Francisco can imagine how challenging and sensitive that role must be. It combines the business interests of cutting-edge leaders in high tech, the longstanding commercial goals of mainstream U.S. businesses, and one of the most challenging legal and regulatory frameworks in the United States.

To my eternal gratitude, I was able to convince Jim, at the end of 2018, to put off retirement and come back one last time to be my State director. He was in that position when COVID hit the Nation, and our office went into overdrive to help Californians get through the pandemic and the economic collapse. He has overseen the State staff through California's two worst fire seasons on record and the growing drought. For many months, he has been a trusted friend and partner, going over the issues of day, business before the Senate, and life in San Francisco.

Jim's last day with the Senate was February 28, a day fittingly named "Jim Lazarus Day" in San Francisco by Mayor London Breed. His efforts have made the city a better place and have made me a more effective Senator. In addition to his work at the Federal level, he has been pivotal in protecting and strengthening the rights of so many Californians, to include the LGBT community, the business community, renters, and those seeking clean air and water. He has

made a huge mark over decades improving the services and culture of San Francisco.

Jim has now retired and plans to spend more time with his wife Ann and their children Kate, Nicole, Jack, and Michael. I have no doubt that he will keep his oar in civic life, and I will leave the door open for another chat over a glass of California Chardonnay.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

MOTION TO DISCHARGE S.J. RES. 37

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 37, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention relating to "Requirement for Persons To Wear Masks While on Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs", and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Rand Paul, Mike Braun, Steve Daines, John Hoeven, Mike Lee, James Lankford, Cynthia M. Lummis, Tom Cotton, Ted Cruz, Tommy Tuberville, Roger Marshall, John Barrasso, Marsha Blackburn, Joni Ernst, James M. Inhofe, Roger F. Wicker, Patrick J. Toomey, Josh Hawley, Kevin Cramer, Roy Blunt, Ron Johnson, Marco Rubio, John Boozman, Rick Scott, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, James E. Risch, Tim Scott, Mitch McConnell.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 37. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention relating to "Requirement for Persons To Wear Masks While on Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs".

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3401. A communication from the Chief Innovation Officer, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Multi-Family Housing (MFH) Direct Loan Programs" (RIN0575-AD17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 10, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3402. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Buprofezin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9067-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3403. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Novaluron; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9565-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3404. A communication from the Secretary of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an independent assessment of the Department of Defense counter-small unmanned aircraft systems (C-sUAS) program (OSS-2022-0193); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3405. A communication from the Secretary of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Counter-small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-sUAS) Executive Agent (EA) activities (OSS-2022-0194); to the Committee on Armed Services.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SCHATZ, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 648. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make a technical correction to the water rights settlement for Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-93).

By Mr. DURBIN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2614. A bill to provide for the modernization of electronic case management systems, and for other purposes.

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 Ms. ERNST:

S. 3836. A bill to establish within the Executive Office of the President the Taxpayer Watchdog Office; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HAGERTY:

S. 3837. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to ensure the supply of certain medical materials essential to national defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 3838. A bill to authorize the confiscation of property of certain Russian persons subject to sanctions imposed by the United States and the use of that property for the benefit of the people of Ukraine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3839. A bill to clarify that the Federal Trade Commission Act prohibits excessive and unjustified price increases in the sale of certain products and services when an emergency or disaster results in abnormal disruptions of the market, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 3840. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the threshold for the de minimis exception for information reporting by third party settlement organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3841. A bill to provide for the termination of all contracts between the United Nations Department of Peace Operations and the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WARNOCK:

S. 3842. A bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to permit State and local coronavirus fiscal recovery funds to be used to address increased costs of essential items; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 3843. A bill to require the Environmental Protection Agency to issue analyses on the environmental and economic impacts of rules and rulemakings of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 3844. A bill to establish a clear and uniform process, on a nationwide basis, for replacing the London interbank offered rate in existing contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3845. A bill to require the United States Fire Administration to conduct on-site investigations of major fires, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KING, Ms. ERNST, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 546. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate condemning the Russian Federation, President Vladimir Putin, members of the Russian Security Council, the Russian Armed Forces, and Russian military commanders for committing atrocities, including alleged war crimes, against the peo-

ple of Ukraine and others; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. Res. 547. A resolution recognizing the 201st anniversary of Greek Independence and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 79

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 79, a bill to eliminate the disparity in sentencing for cocaine offenses, and for other purposes.

S. 349

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 349, a bill to establish an advisory office within the Bureau of Consumer Protection of the Federal Trade Commission to prevent fraud targeting seniors, and for other purposes.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 479, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate advance refunding bonds.

S. 552

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 552, a bill to direct the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to submit to Congress a report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global basic education programs.

S. 623

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 623, a bill to make daylight saving time permanent, and for other purposes.

S. 749

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 749, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance tax benefits for research activities.

S. 828

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 828, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1408

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from South Caro-

lina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1435

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1435, a bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to prohibit product hopping, and for other purposes.

S. 1469

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1469, a bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to meet the needs of homeless children, youth, and families, and honor the assessments and priorities of local communities.

S. 2178

At the request of Mr. HICKENLOOPER, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2178, a bill to provide collective bargaining rights for fire fighters and emergency medical services personnel employed by States or their political subdivisions, and for other purposes.

S. 2266

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2266, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the historic rehabilitation tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2907

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2907, a bill to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3018

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3018, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans, and for other purposes.

S. 3048

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3048, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to establish an Advisory Commission on Serving and Supporting Students with Mental Health Disabilities in Institutions of Higher Education, and for other purposes.

S. 3405

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3405, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue a rule providing that certain low power television stations may be accorded primary status as Class A television licensees, and for other purposes.

S. 3417

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3417, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 3508

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3508, a bill to posthumously award a congressional gold medal to Constance Baker Motley.

S. 3545

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3545, a bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to be appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

S. 3580

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3580, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to prohibited acts by ocean common carriers or marine terminal operators, and for other purposes.

S. 3641

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3641, 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.

S. 3714

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3714, a bill to prioritize United States energy independence, and for other purposes.

S. 3742

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3742, a bill to establish a pilot grant program to improve recycling accessibility, and for other purposes.

S. 3755

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin

(Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3755, a bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 with respect to arbitration.

S. 3822

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3822, a bill to prohibit the President from promulgating new oil and gas regulations until after the Russian troops have withdrawn from Ukraine, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 30

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 30, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United Nations should take immediate procedural actions necessary to amend Article 23 of the Charter of the United Nations to remove the Russian Federation as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 3836. A bill to establish within the Executive Office of the President the Taxpayer Watchdog Office; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, there are very few things that possess the power to change the course of history almost instantaneously. Information is one.

Consider, right now, citizens in Ukraine are holding one of the most ruthless, autocratic, and powerful men in the world, Vladimir Putin, accountable for his barbaric assault on their country with their firsthand accounts being live-streamed from behind the battle lines.

Putin is attempting to censor coverage of the bloody conflict by threatening to jail journalists and Russian citizens who dare use the word “war” to describe his unprovoked attack.

Even the United Nations instructed its staff not to refer to Russia’s military assault on Ukraine as a “war” or “invasion.” Yet, every day, Ukrainians are bypassing this blockade of information and exposing the Russian tyrant’s atrocities in real time by sharing images of civilians standing up to the heavily armed Russian invaders, the innocent victims and destruction caused by the bombing, and captured Russian soldiers in tears testifying that they were lied to and misled into attacking a peaceful country.

As a result, the people of Ukraine have rallied the world, including many Russians, behind their courageous struggle to preserve freedom and democracy against the largest military assault in Europe since World War II.

This is the power of information.

Authoritarians like Putin cannot hide their dirty deeds in the dark as long as light can be shined to expose the truth. It should serve as a reminder to every single American how important it is that we uphold and defend the fundamental principles of our Nation that make us so great—in particular, our First Amendment.

We should never take these American freedoms for granted. That is why it is important we celebrate the freedom of information every year during Sunshine Week. With widespread distrust in government and the media and Big Tech controlling what facts and opinions can even be shared, it has become increasingly important that each one of us has the power to access facts, unfiltered.

To arm us with information, over the past half century, a number of important laws have been passed by Congress to increase openness in government and give our citizens a right to know. These include the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, which allows access to government documents, and the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act, which provides a detailed accounting of how, where, why, and by whom taxpayer dollars are being spent.

To demonstrate the importance of these laws, let me give you a relatively simple example with potentially profound implications.

In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, I teamed up with my friends at the White Coat Waste Project to use a combination of these transparency laws to follow a trail of U.S. taxpayer dollars to China’s state-run Wuhan Institute of Virology, where they were being used to pay for dangerous research on coronaviruses. The world is now demanding to know if these studies could have been the source of the COVID-19 pandemic that shut down our planet for the past 2 years and claimed the lives of millions around the globe.

Regretfully, we still don’t know the whole truth because communist China refuses to cooperate and is, instead, destroying evidence and coercing investigators to dismiss any suggestion that the virus might have escaped from the lab. Even many within the free press of our own country, the scientific community, and Big Tech fell for the Communist misinformation campaign, smearing anyone who even suggested the lab could have been the source of the outbreak as spreading “conspiracy theories.”

We refused to be intimidated by this Communist Party’s propaganda and continued our search for the truth. We followed the science and the money and discovered the world was being told a story that was very much different from what was transpiring behind those closed doors.

Thanks, in part, to a transparency law requiring the disclosure of details on projects paid for by U.S. taxpayers, we knew NIH was funding a group

called EcoHealth to conduct experiments on coronaviruses that were obtained from bats in China and that they were doing so in collaboration with the now-infamous Wuhan Institute.

The White Coat Waste Project then used FOIA to obtain internal NIH emails, which revealed the Agency was funding controversial gain-of-function research on coronaviruses at the Wuhan Institute in 2016. They also revealed Dr. Fauci was told as early as January 2020 that COVID-19 looked engineered.

Was this project, paid for with your tax dollars, somehow related to the release of the COVID-19 pandemic, which just happened to begin in the vicinity of the lab in Wuhan?

EcoHealth might know the truth or even provide some clues, but the group's president refuses to answer questions. In fact, he organized a disinformation campaign to discredit scientists who dared to ask that question.

EcoHealth also evaded a number of Federal transparency laws requiring the disclosure of how our tax dollars are being spent. As a result, we still aren't even entirely sure how much of our money was sunk into subsidizing the unsafe, state-run lab in communist China.

Folks, we really deserve the answers, and if EcoHealth won't cooperate voluntarily, then that information will be obtained with subpoenas when Republicans are back in control of Congress. You can mark my words.

This troubling situation demonstrates both the power and the shortcomings of transparency laws. Armed with information, citizens can uphold the government and make it accountable and expose malfeasance but only if the laws are followed, and, right now, many of these laws are all bark and no bite.

So what can a civic-minded Iowan do to get answers from inside the DC beltway bureaucracy?

Well, you know what they say: If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog.

That is why I have introduced the Watchdog Act, which will establish within the White House a new Director of Openness—yes, you have got it, D-O-G—Director of Openness in Government, who will be the taxpayers' best friend. This top dog will hound our government bureaucrats to fetch the facts for our taxpayers. Agencies that would not provide information in a complete and timely manner would be dogged until they do.

In contrast to Russia, where the government controls and censors information, my bill creates a transparency czar to open government and spread information.

Folks, we can't have gatekeepers of truth in a free society. That is why, under my bill, those who censor information, rather than those who share it, will be held accountable.

The best way to restore trust in our public institutions and to discredit

misinformation campaigns is by shining a light on what is really going on in Washington, and with the Sun now setting an hour later every day, we are all reminded what a big difference a little bit of sunshine can make.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 546—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONDEMNING THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN, MEMBERS OF THE RUSSIAN SECURITY COUNCIL, THE RUSSIAN ARMED FORCES, AND RUSSIAN MILITARY COMMANDERS FOR COMMITTING ATROCITIES, INCLUDING ALLEGED WAR CRIMES, AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE AND OTHERS

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KING, Ms. ERNST, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 546

Whereas the United States of America is a beacon for the values of freedom, democracy, and human rights across the globe;

Whereas there are several universal declarations and treaties promoting human rights, laws of war, and upholding the dignity of individuals;

Whereas the United Nations Charter Preamble states that member nations "reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights [and] in the dignity and worth of the human person";

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Preamble states that "Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms";

Whereas the Russian Federation joined as an original member of the United Nations as the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on October 24, 1945, and as such has a duty to abide by the conditions of the United Nations Charter and pledges reflected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas the International Criminal Court (ICC) is an international tribunal that seeks to uphold the rule of law, especially in areas where no rule of law exists, by investigating and trying individuals charged "with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression";

Whereas grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions constitute war crimes, including "wil[l]ful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, including biological experiments, wil[l]fully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health... and extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly";

Whereas other serious violations of the laws and customs applicable in international armed conflict can constitute war crimes,

which can include intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population as such or against individual civilians not taking direct part in hostilities and intentionally directing attacks against civilian objects, that is, objects which are not military objectives;

Whereas President Vladimir Putin, members of the Russian Security Council, and President Putin's military commanders have severely undermined the international rule of law through their various actions;

Whereas, prior to the most recent invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, President Vladimir Putin and the Russian Federation has a long history of committing acts of aggression, human rights violations, and acts that constitute war crimes within the Russian Federation and around the globe, including in Chechnya, Georgia, Ukraine, and Syria;

Whereas, beginning in 1999, the Russian Federation engaged in the indiscriminate use of force against the people of Chechnya, including the use of cluster munitions against civilians, resulting in 50,000 Chechens, mostly civilians, dead or missing;

Whereas, during the Russian Federation's invasion of Georgia in 2008, Russian Armed Forces engaged with cluster munitions in indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks that resulted in the death of civilians;

Whereas, since 2014, President Vladimir Putin has violated the sovereignty of Ukraine and used military force to seize control and unlawfully occupy Crimea, and installed Russian separatist-backed forces in eastern Ukraine, resulting in the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians since 2014;

Whereas the Russian military was deemed responsible for shooting down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over eastern Ukraine on July 17, 2014, which resulted in the death of 298 civilians;

Whereas rebel forces supported by the Russian Federation were deemed responsible for a missile attack on January 24, 2015, in Mariupol, Ukraine that indiscriminately killed and injured civilians, resulting in the death of at least 30 and injuring many more;

Whereas, in 2016 and 2017, Russian aircraft deployed "bunker-busting" and incendiary bombs capable of destroying military installations on civilian structures in Aleppo, Syria, resulting in the death of hundreds of civilians;

Whereas President Vladimir Putin is complicit in war crimes and human rights violations in Syria through his continuing political, financial, and military support for President Bashar al-Assad;

Whereas intelligence assessments have concluded Vladimir Putin and his regime have destroyed the rule of law in Russia and engaged in countless atrocities, including ordering the poisoning of Alexei Navalny, the poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skripal, and the false imprisonment and torture ultimately leading to the death of Sergei Magnitsky;

Whereas President Vladimir Putin, in February 2022, initiated a premeditated, unprovoked, unjustified, and unlawful war against the sovereign nation of Ukraine;

Whereas, since February 24, 2022, President Vladimir Putin and Russian Federation forces reportedly killed more than 500 civilians, to include children, while invading Ukrainian urban centers, causing chaos and fear among Ukrainian citizens;

Whereas, on February 28, 2022, the Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States, Oksana Markarova, claimed President Vladimir Putin ordered the deployment of thermobaric weapons and cluster munitions to be used in the northeastern towns of Okhtyrka and Karkhiv, in populated, urban areas;

Whereas Ukraine has twice submitted to the jurisdiction of the ICC for the purposes

of investigating alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed within its territory related to the Russian occupation of Ukraine;

Whereas Lithuania and Canada, members to the authorizing treaty of the ICC, have called on the ICC to open an investigation into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Russia;

Whereas, on February 28, 2022, the Prosecutor of the ICC, Karim A.A. Khan QC stated that the ICC would open a third investigation against Russia for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the Russian invasion into Ukraine, which began on February 24, 2022;

Whereas Ukraine has also filed a claim in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) instituting proceedings against the Russian Federation related to genocide under the Genocide Convention; and

Whereas the United States Government should use its voice, vote, and influence to pursue war crimes and crimes against humanity allegations against Vladimir Putin and his military commanders in international institutions of which it is a member and encourage other allies and partners to express the same: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

The Senate—

(1) strongly condemns the ongoing violence, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and systematic human rights abuses being carried out by the Russian Armed Forces and their proxies and President Putin's military commanders, at the direction of President Vladimir Putin;

(2) encourages member states to petition the ICC or other appropriate international tribunal to take any appropriate steps to investigate war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Russian Armed Forces and their proxies and President Putin's military commanders, at the direction of President Vladimir Putin;

(3) supports any investigation into war crimes, crimes against humanity, and systematic human rights abuses levied by President Vladimir Putin, the Russian Security Council, the Russian Armed Forces and their proxies, and President Putin's military commanders;

(4) encourages the United States Government and partner nations to use their voice, vote, and influence in international institutions in which they are members to hold President Vladimir Putin, the Russian Security Council, the Russian Armed Forces and their proxies, and President Putin's military commanders accountable for their sponsorship of ongoing violence, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and systematic human rights abuses; and

(5) stands with the people of Ukraine who have been affected by the brutality of the Putin regime.

SEC. 2. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this resolution may be construed as—

(1) a declaration of war or an authorization for the use of military force against the Russian Federation; or

(2) authorization for the introduction of the United States Armed Forces into Ukraine.

SENATE RESOLUTION 547—RECOGNIZING THE 201ST ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted the following res-

olution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 547

Whereas the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people, was developed in ancient Greece;

Whereas the founding fathers of the United States were inspired by ancient Greek political philosophy, which many of them read in the original Greek language, when they formed the representative democracy of the United States;

Whereas Petros Mavromichalis, the former Commander in Chief of Greece and a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821, "It is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and. . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you";

Whereas Thomas Jefferson wrote, in an October 21, 1823, letter to Greek scholar Adamantios Korais discussing the ongoing Greek struggle for independence, that "[n]o people sympathise more feelingly than ours with the sufferings of your countrymen, none offer more sincere and ardent prayers to heaven for their success";

Whereas then-Congressman Daniel Webster, on January 19, 1824, in a speech in support of his resolution to send an American envoy to Greece amid its struggle for independence, recognized "the struggle of an interesting and gallant people. . . contending against fearful odds, for being, and for the common privilege of human nature";

Whereas American Philhellenes, including future abolitionist Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, future abolitionist Jonathan Peckham Miller, and George Jarvis, traveled to Greece to fight alongside and provide aid to the Greek people in their struggle for independence;

Whereas the people of the United States generously sent humanitarian assistance to the people of Greece during their struggle for independence, often through philhellene committees;

Whereas Greece heroically resisted Axis forces at a crucial moment in World War II, forcing Adolf Hitler to change his timeline and delaying the attack on Russia;

Whereas Winston Churchill said that "if there had not been the virtue and courage of the Greeks, we do not know which the outcome of World War II would have been" and "no longer will we say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks";

Whereas the United States and Greece have been allies in major international conflicts throughout modern history;

Whereas the Greek-American community has positively contributed to American society and has helped forge strong ties between the United States and Greece;

Whereas the United States greatly contributed to the reconstruction of Greece after World War II;

Whereas NATO membership has further enhanced cooperation between the United States and Greece;

Whereas Greece is an integral part of the European Union;

Whereas Greece is a strategic partner of the United States in bringing political stability and economic development to the Balkan region, having actively contributed to the Euro-Atlantic integration of the countries of the region and having been a major investor in Southeastern Europe, including in critical infrastructure;

Whereas Greece participates in and actively promotes several formats for regional partnership in the Eastern Mediterranean;

Whereas the United States has demonstrated its support for the trilateral partnership of Greece, Israel, and Cyprus by en-

acting into law the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 (title II of division J of Public Law 116-94) and through joint engagement with Greece, Israel, and Cyprus in the "3+1" format;

Whereas this support was bolstered in the United States-Greece Defense and Interparliamentary Partnership Act of 2021 (sub-title B of title XIII of Public Law 117-81), establishing a 3+1 Interparliamentary Group to discuss the expansion of co-operation in other areas of common concern;

Whereas the United States and Greece's commitment to security cooperation led to the conclusion of a Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement, which was updated in 2021 in order to enhance defense ties between the two countries and promote stability in the broader region;

Whereas the ongoing United States-Greece Strategic Dialogue reflects Greece's importance to the United States as a geostrategic partner, especially in the Eastern Mediterranean and Balkans, and as an important NATO ally;

Whereas the Governments and people of Greece and the United States are at the forefront of international efforts to advance freedom, democracy, rule of law, human rights, peace, and stability;

Whereas those efforts and similar ideals have forged a close bond between the peoples of Greece and the United States; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable for the United States to celebrate March 25, 2022, Greek Independence Day, with the people of Greece and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which those two great countries were founded: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Greece as they celebrate the 201st anniversary of the independence of Greece;

(2) expresses support for the principles of democratic governance to which the people of the United States and Greece are committed;

(3) notes the important role that Greece has played in the wider European region and in the community of nations since gaining its independence;

(4) commends the contributions of the Greek-American community to the United States and its role as a bridge between the two countries;

(5) commends the critical role Greece plays in promoting stability in the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkans; and

(6) appreciates the important energy partnership that exists between the United States and Greece, and the important role that Greece plays in bolstering European energy security.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5000. Mr. RUBIO proposed an amendment to the bill S. 623, to make daylight saving time permanent, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5000. Mr. RUBIO proposed an amendment to the bill S. 623, to make daylight saving time permanent, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Sunshine Protection Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. MAKING DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME PERMANENT.

(a) **REPEAL OF TEMPORARY PERIOD FOR DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME.**—Section 3 of the Uniform Time Act of 1966 (15 U.S.C. 260a) is hereby repealed.

(b) **ADVANCEMENT OF STANDARD TIME.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The second sentence of subsection (a) of section 1 of the Act of March 19, 1918 (commonly known as the “Calder Act”) (15 U.S.C. 261), is amended—

(A) by striking “4 hours” and inserting “3 hours”;

(B) by striking “5 hours” and inserting “4 hours”;

(C) by striking “6 hours” and inserting “5 hours”;

(D) by striking “7 hours” and inserting “6 hours”;

(E) by striking “8 hours” and inserting “by 7 hours”;

(F) by striking “9 hours” and inserting “8 hours”;

(G) by striking “10 hours,” and inserting “9 hours”;

(H) by striking “11 hours” and inserting “10 hours”;

(I) by striking “10 hours.” and inserting “11 hours.”

(2) **STATE EXEMPTION.**—Such section is further amended by—

(A) redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(B) inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) **STANDARD TIME FOR CERTAIN STATES AND AREAS.**—The standard time for a State that has exempted itself from the provisions of section 3(a) of the Uniform Time Act of 1966 (15 U.S.C. 260a(a)), as in effect on the day before November 5, 2023, pursuant to such section or an area of a State that has exempted such area from such provisions pursuant to such section shall be, as such State considers appropriate—

“(1) the standard time for such State or area, as the case may be, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; or

“(2) the standard time for such State or area, as the case may be, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section as it was in effect on the day before November 5, 2023.”

(3) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Such section is further amended, in the second sentence, by striking “Except as provided in section 3(a) of the Uniform Time Act of 1966 (15 U.S.C. 260a(a)), the” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection (b).”

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This Act and the amendments made by this Act take effect on November 5, 2023.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I have nine requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to

meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 15, 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 Tuesday, March 15, 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 Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

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 Tuesday, March 15, 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 Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP, AND BORDER SAFETY

The Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise again to discuss the scheme that has captured and now controls America’s Supreme Court.

If you have been following this series of speeches, you know that we have gone over the Powell memo and the plan it laid out for the corporate rightwing. We have gone over the technique of Agency capture, regulatory capture, that has been applied to the Supreme Court. We have gone over the turnstile, that big anonymous rightwing donor setup within the Federalist Society to approve Republican nominees and the dark money front groups that sped those nominees through Senate confirmation. And we have discussed how the big rightwing donor interests influence Justices while they are on the Bench, through fast lanes for dark money litigation and flotillas—flotillas—of dark money amici curiae, front group amici.

Well, if you set up a machine like that, you will pretty soon see Justices

auditioning for the role. To understand the origins of this auditioning, you need to start with a little bit of history.

It is 1990, and President George H. W. Bush needs to fill a vacancy left by the legendary Justice William Brennan. President Bush appoints a recent First Circuit nominee named David Souter, who had spent most of his career in New Hampshire State government.

At the time, Republicans thought Souter’s short time on the Federal bench was an asset. Without a long paper trail, there was less chance that Souter’s nomination would go down in flames, like Robert Bork’s had.

But Souter wasn’t the conservative the rightwing hoped for. Indeed, he could be down-right moderate. In their disappointment, they adopted a new mantra: “No More Souters.”

When rumors got around that George W. Bush might nominate his White House Counsel, Alberto Gonzales, to the Court, he was not seen as rightwing enough, and the scheme panicked and the mantra became “Al Gonzales is Spanish for ‘David Souter.’”

John Paul Stevens was another rightwing disappointment. So “No More Souters” as a mantra was joined by “No More Stevenses.”

With these disappointments, the rightwing donors and their Federalist Society accolades vowed to better groom and vet future candidates, scouring Republican nominees’ records for maximum adherence to scheme orthodoxy.

Well, once that process was up and operating, the response was predictable. Ambitious rightwing lawyers aspiring to the Federal Bench aren’t dumb. They will follow the path that guides them to their goal. So the maximum adherence auditioning began. I have described the circuit court judge who observed his colleagues taking cases and issuing rulings that seemed to have the clear intent of sending a signal. They strained to write decisions that were dressed to impress. They were, in his word, “auditioning”—auditioning for the Federalist Society gatekeepers.

So how exactly does this auditioning work? There is a recipe:

One, you have got to understand what matters to the big donors: guns, unbridled campaign spending, corporate political power, shrinking the so-called administrative state, and rightwing social issues.

Two, fly solo. It can actually help if you go it alone. Write opinions so extreme that they stand out and donors take notice.

And, three, of course, where you can, deliver the goods. If a case allows you to score a win for a big donor interest, take it.

Three Justices who knew this recipe well were the trio nominated by Donald Trump.

As a circuit court judge, Neil Gorsuch became a darling of the rightwing donor elites for his commitment

to dismantling this so-called administrative state. To do that, he deployed radical legal theories cooked up and propagated in the scheme's legal theory hothouse, where they developed schemes, kind of reverse-engineering them to give victories in cases.

In one instance, Gorsuch even wrote two opinions for the same case: one, the majority opinion that his colleagues joined; and the other, an out-there solo opinion displaying his scheme bona fides.

Gorsuch also displayed his fervor for what he called religious freedom, which usually translates to dismantling the separation between church and State, which is another scheme favorite.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett knew how to audition too. In one case, Barrett's Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals declined to hear a challenge to an Indiana law on women's right to choose. Barrett bucked the majority to stakeout an eyebrow-raising position on the right, joining a dissent aimed directly at Supreme Court abortion precedent.

On guns, Judge Barrett authored an opinion in a Second Amendment case called *Kanter v. Barr* that would have given a felon back his gun because his felony wasn't violent. Constitutional scholars' jaws hit the floor at that one.

Adam Winkler, a Second Amendment expert at UCLA Law School, told the *New Yorker* that the opinion was "Amy Coney Barrett's audition tape for the Supreme Court." And it was her audition tape because her "view of the Second Amendment [was] outside of the mainstream" and "would appeal . . . to the Federalist Society."

Of course, the biggest auditioner of all was Brett Kavanaugh. On the DC Circuit, Kavanaugh did so much auditioning it is hard to know where to begin. He issued opinions on abortion, on guns, on the administrative state, on campaign finance, and more. He was not concerned with building consensus. He wanted to make a point.

Here is Washington Post editor Ruth Marcus in her book on Kavanaugh:

His more liberal appeals court colleagues found him affable but unyielding. He would engage but rarely, if ever, change his mind, [and he] displayed a propensity for filing separate concurrences and dissents, actions that some colleagues took as judicial grandstanding and, more to the point, an effort to position himself for a Supreme Court seat.

Auditioning—in fact, Kavanaugh dissented more each year on the bench than any of his DC Circuit colleagues, whether Republican or Democratic appointees.

Kavanaugh made clear that he would be on the team if on the Court. Kavanaugh pumped up the "major questions" doctrine—one of the hothouse legal theories pushed by the far right. It says that courts should ignore an Agency's authority to solve a problem if the court thinks the problem is too big. Big regulated companies love having regulatory Agencies hobbled. So this was catnip for scheme donors.

The majority in that case panned Kavanaugh's "major questions" idea, which hadn't even been raised by the parties, but Kavanaugh wasn't out to win votes from his colleagues, and he wasn't out to do justice in that case. He was firing an auditioning flare for scheme operatives and donors to see from miles around.

Like Barrett, Kavanaugh did his own publicity. He spoke at 52—count them, 52—Federalist Society events over his career. You almost couldn't keep him out. And he wasn't the only one seeking an audience with the Federalist Society donor elite. After Trump's election, 9 of the 21 people on Trump's short list spoke at a 3-day Federalist Society panel dedicated to remembering Justice Scalia, and almost all the others were hanging out, mingling in the crowd. It was a judicial beauty pageant, with some real beauties.

Kavanaugh had a little problem. He wasn't on Trump's first list of potential Supreme Court picks, and he wasn't on the second list either. But all that eager auditioning got him onto the third list, and the rest is history.

I am not alone in noting all this auditioning. Here is how one writer for *Slate* paraphrased former U.S. District Judge Nancy Gertner about scheme auditioning:

[C]onservative judges auditioning for SCOTUS—

Supreme Court of the United States—

go all out proving their Federalist Society bona fides: Gorsuch used his judicial opinions on the appeals court to advertise himself as an enemy of the administrative state and a diehard proponent of religious freedom; Kavanaugh flaunted his support of the unitary executive and hostility to reproductive rights to earn a spot on President Donald Trump's short list; Amy Coney Barrett brandished her Second Amendment maximalism.

As the *Slate* writers note:

The conservative legal movement rewards this kind of flagrantly ideological auditioning. Republicans demand evidence that their justices will aggressively overturn precedent and laws that conflict with their political goals.

As I said earlier, "no more Souters," "no more Stevenses."

That is the auditioning by these sitting Justices.

I will close my remarks with an example of what happens when you haven't auditioned for the scheme.

When Justice Sandra Day O'Connor announced her retirement, George W. Bush wanted to replace her with his friend and loyal White House Counsel, Harriet Miers. Miers was a dyed-in-the-wool conservative. She had served Bush and his inner circle faithfully. But she wasn't a Federalist Society insider. She didn't have a record of auditioning for the big donors behind the Federalist Society's turnstile. She couldn't soothe those rightwing donors that she was "no Souter," "no Stevens." Her sin wasn't anything in particular; she just wasn't part of the club.

As Supreme Court scholar Amanda Hollis-Brusky put it:

The message Leonard [Leo] and others had sent was: If you want to rise through the ranks, we need to know you. And that's what they were all saying about Miers—"We don't know her. She is not one of us."

Leonard Leo, by the way, is sort of the spider at the center of the web of donor interests that drive the turnstile at the Federalist Society during Republican Presidencies.

We are now embarking on the confirmation process of someone who has not auditioned to donor elites for a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court. No dark money machine guided her selection. That is refreshing.

Still, the auditioning continues on the right for the next time a Republican President holds office. Scheme donors expect standout candidates who wear their commitment to their donor welfare on their sleeves. Watch closely for more. To be continued.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I come to the floor again today to stand with the people of Ukraine.

What Russia is doing to Ukraine and its citizens is an atrocity. Ukraine is an American ally and an independent and democratic country of 41 million people who simply want to live in peace.

The Russian invasion is an illegal, unprovoked, and brutal assault that, over the past 19 days since the full-scale invasion began, has targeted and killed thousands of civilians. Americans have seen this atrocity in realtime with horrific videos online or on our television screens.

The videos and photos have sometimes been shocking. Remember the one of the woman who was on a stretcher, pregnant, leaving the maternity hospital that had been bombed by the Russians. We now learned that that woman and her baby have died. Today we learned that more journalists have been killed, including an American journalist, a FOX News cameraperson.

I just returned last night from a bipartisan congressional delegation trip to Poland, neighboring Ukraine. I was joined on that trip by Senator KLOBUCHAR, Senator WICKER, and Senator BLUMENTHAL. I see Senator WICKER is here on the floor. Senator BLUMENTHAL is also here. Senator KLOBUCHAR has a conflict. She wanted to be here, but she is going to be submitting her statement for the record to join us tonight.

We had a very emotional trip because we talked to a lot of the refugees coming out of Ukraine, talked about the incredible trauma they are going through. We also got some very sobering briefings when we were over there from our own team but also from the Polish Government, from people who were helping the refugees.

It is a very difficult situation. Poland is doing what they can to help their

neighbor. They have a special bond with Ukraine, and they are doing a lot. In fact, most of the nearly 2 million refugees who have fled Ukraine because of this invasion and the brutal attacks have come to Poland, where they have been met with open hearts and open homes. Literally, people in Poland are opening up their homes to these refugees. We were at the border, where some of these Polish families have come to welcome Ukrainians into their apartments, into their homes.

In addition to briefings from our U.S. Embassy team in Poland; the U.S. Embassy team from Ukraine, who is now in Poland; the U.S. military in Poland; and the Polish Government, we did go down to the border between Ukraine and Poland to meet with the border officials from Poland, U.S. and Polish international relief organizations, and, of course, with the refugees themselves who were streaming across the border.

Roughly, 100 refugees every minute are leaving Ukraine. It was heart-breaking to hear their stories. You can imagine. We spoke to them at the border crossing but also a couple miles away at what is called the reception center, a convention center that has been converted into a place where thousands of refugees can come, get a good night's sleep, maybe stay for a few days or even a few weeks, find food, find healthcare, find mental health treatment.

Most of this, by the way, has been donated. The Polish people have donated bed sheets and blankets and quilts. We worked there as volunteers with what is called the World Central Kitchen, something actually a Washington, DC, chef, Jose Andres, has set up at natural disaster areas to help feed people. He is now doing this on the border with Ukraine and in Ukraine. In fact, he has about 20 different World Central Kitchens set up. This one was at this reception center being used by refugee families who need to find some comfort and food, as they have made a long trek, in many cases, across Ukraine to get there.

There are also lots of displaced people in Ukraine itself, and those people are being helped by the same group, this World Central Kitchen. I thank them. I thank all the volunteers who give them support and help so that they can lend a hand at these reception centers and help these refugees along their way.

I also thank so many other volunteers we saw there from every organization: Catholic relief organizations, other faith-based organizations, the World Health Organization, and others.

We were at the border only about 6 hours after the Russian missiles had attacked and killed at least 35 and wounded more than 130 at a Ukrainian training center just 15 miles away. The border guards said they had felt the Earth tremble when the bombing attack occurred, again, just several hours before we got there.

This was the first Russian attack so close to the western border with Eu-

rope and so close to a NATO ally, a potentially dangerous new phase of the Russian assault.

We met refugees there from all over the country, the vast majority of whom were mothers with their children, sometimes grandmothers with their grandchildren. Men between 18 and 60 are required to stay and fight, so we heard some really tough stories about families being split apart and moms and wives and sisters wondering whether their sons and husbands and brothers who were in harm's way were still alive.

Some refugees had traveled by bus, some by foot, some on trains. Some had come over Ukraine for several days. They told of heart-wrenching stories of their homes being destroyed, of friends and family being wounded by the indiscriminate Russian bombing of civilian areas. They had backpacks or small suitcases; that is it. They had to travel and travel quickly and travel light. They left everything else behind, including, again, in some cases, family members.

Some, again, had been traveling for several days. One family we met from the eastern part of Ukraine said it had been over 2 weeks. Some who lived close to the border had only made the difficult decision to leave their homes that very morning after the bombing of the training center 15 miles away. Refugees spoke with tears in their eyes about the pain of leaving their homeland, and all the families I spoke with said they want to go back when it is safe.

Many said they appreciated what America had done, but just about every single refugee we talked to asked that the United States of America and other countries around the world do more particularly to stop the deadly bombing of civilian targets and the senseless destructions of their towns and cities.

In particular, they begged us to close the skies, as they said: Keep us from getting bombarded. Stop the carnage. They were very proud of the courage of the Ukrainian soldiers—they are patriots—and, of course, of the citizen soldiers, sometimes including their own family who have stepped forward. They were proud of the bravery and leadership of President Zelenskyy.

But consistent with what we have heard from the military experts on the trip and what many of us have heard directly from President Zelenskyy, these families, these refugees—the grandmothers, the mothers—said the ability to provide better air cover with more and better ways to protect them is what they really want.

What President Zelenskyy and others have said is better anti-air systems, better ways to protect against missile attacks, anti-missile systems, drones, airplanes—that that is the single most important thing we can do to save lives and give Ukrainian military fighters, the civilian soldiers we talked about—professional soldiers—give them a chance, give them a fighting chance.

Other countries on the frontlines also need to know we are with them, especially our NATO allies, because they are nervous, as you can imagine. While in Poland, we met with hundreds of 82nd Airborne troops who have come to Poland in the past couple of weeks, along with some troops from other NATO countries. We have gone from about 5,000 U.S. troops in Poland to about 10,000 troops over the past couple weeks, and the Polish Government and the Polish people are deeply appreciative. They believe that this it is a deterrent to Russia making an even bigger mistake and coming into their country.

We received extensive briefings from the Polish Government but also from the 82nd Airborne, and we were able to join troops for dinner to hear directly from them. I was fortunate there were a lot of Ohioans there, and hearing from them made me very, very proud that they were willing to step forward and serve their country in this way.

We listened carefully to everybody. We listened to the refugees, listened to the humanitarian aid workers, listened to the U.S. diplomats, to the military experts, as well as the Polish military officials. There were differences of opinion, to be sure, on some of the specifics but actually broad agreement on the ongoing role the United States can play.

Based on what we learned, the following steps should be taken immediately. First, on the military side, we have got to redouble our efforts to provide Ukraine with the equipment and the munitions they need and, where necessary, the immediate training to provide the air defenses they need to give them better capability—defense and offense.

Whether to facilitate providing more MiG-29s from Poland or not has been hotly debated in this past week. In my view, we should have done it when it got that initial green light from part of this Biden administration because the Ukrainians asked for them, and I don't believe they are any more escalatory, certainly, than the escalation the Russians are engaged in virtually every day and what we have done and continue to do on other weapon transfers. So we should have done it immediately and quietly. But the administration seems to have dug in on this for now, and it has become too much of a public debate. I would hope that at least they would facilitate spare parts and other assistance to keep the current Ukrainian planes flying.

Perhaps more promising is to immediately help Ukraine bolster its anti-air systems. The United States can and should facilitate the transfer of Soviet-era anti-aircraft and anti-missile systems so the Ukrainians know how to operate them. And there are a number of regional partners that have this equipment.

Without going into detail, this should also include extra munitions to replenish existing anti-air batteries

that the Ukrainians have. In conjunction with transferring anti-air systems and aircraft, we need to continue to provide Stingers and enhancements to them.

All can be useful in shooting down the Russian fighters and the missiles that are raining bombs on innocent Ukraine civilians and causing so much needless death and destruction. We must find ways to quickly provide Ukraine with more armed drones, such as the Turkish TB2, which the Ukrainians know how to use and have been devastatingly effective on the battlefield already.

Especially now that Congress has passed the omnibus spending bill with a bump-up for defense and specific additional security systems for Ukraine and higher drawdown authority for the President, there can be no excuse for a gap in the flow of arms to Ukraine. We want to be sure that this is seamless. As we complete one tranche of help to Ukraine, there cannot be a gap before we do another. We must move more quickly. Ukraine needs this help. It is a matter of hours and days, not a matter of weeks or months.

In addition to the items mentioned above, this also means more anti-tank Javelin missiles but also small arms, munitions, body armor, communications equipment, anti-tank, mining, anti-ship weapons, and more so the brave Ukrainian soldiers can continue to protect their country and their citizens.

Before I talk about the second part of this, which is the humanitarian side of this effort, I would like to ask my colleagues, whom I see are here on the floor with me, if they have any comments particularly about what Ukraine needs right now in terms of military assistance to be able to be effective or other comments that they might have.

Mr. WICKER. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. PORTMAN. The gentleman will yield.

Mr. WICKER. And perhaps we can proceed in colloquy form.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I thank my dear friend from Ohio, and I see that we have been joined by my friend from Connecticut.

We did have a bipartisan American delegation in Poland and on the Ukrainian border this weekend. I don't recommend, for tourism purposes, a weekend trip to Eastern Europe and back. It is pretty hard on the anatomy. But I think we flew the colors for the United States, for the U.S. Senate, and made a bipartisan point.

And my colleagues can speak for themselves about exactly where they come down on these issues, but it was clear from the statements we made that the United States can do more and should be doing more.

And I call on the administration tonight to listen to the learned words of

the distinguished Senator from Ohio. Yes, I support the MiGs from Poland and from other Eastern European countries. I think the debate got awfully heightened. I don't know why we needed to have an international discussion among allies about that rather than just do it. And maybe that should be a lesson to us on other decisions, which I hope we are about to make, but there are certainly other weapons that we can facilitate in delivering.

Does it make any sense to say that smaller weapons delivered from the United States are OK to fire against the Russian aggressors in Putin's war, but more effective MiG aircraft from NATO somehow would be escalatory?

Listen, our friends are in a war against the remaining dictator and tyrant on the face of the Earth; and if we are not willing—as we are not—to get involved directly in that war, yes, we ought to give our friends the weapons they need to win.

Let me say this: I hear debate in the newspaper and on the media—even today—about an off-ramp, what Putin would agree to, to simply quit fighting: If we give him some of the territory that he thinks he has already conquered, Ukraine would get to have part of their country, and everything would be OK. It makes me feel like, somehow, I have been transported to 1938 and 1939, hearing talk about what Adolf Hitler might agree to, to avoid a world war.

Madam President, it is my understanding that the distinguished majority leader has a unanimous consent request, and I am willing to defer our debate at this point to accommodate some administrative matters that need to be taken care of.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I want to thank my friend and colleague from Mississippi, as well as my friend and colleague from Ohio and from Connecticut.

We have one very important unanimous consent request that I will mention now and ask that unanimous consent request and then do the other ones as well. It will take a few minutes, and I appreciate that.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONDEMNING THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN, MEMBERS OF THE RUSSIAN SECURITY COUNCIL, THE RUSSIAN ARMED FORCES, AND RUSSIAN MILITARY COMMANDERS FOR COMMITTING ATROCITIES, INCLUDING ALLEGED WAR CRIMES, AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE AND OTHERS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, in a few minutes, we will pass a resolution, S. Res. 546, condemning the Russian Federation, condemning Vladimir Putin, and expressing the sense of the Senate condemning the Russian Federation, Putin, and members of Russian security council, Russian Armed

Forces, and Russian military commanders for committing atrocities, alleged war crimes against the people of Ukraine.

It has been 19 days—19 long, bloody days since the war erupted on the European continent. Today, all of us in this Chamber join together as Democrats and Republicans to say that Vladimir Putin cannot escape accountability for the atrocities committed against the Ukrainian people. The legislation passing today, championed by Senator GRAHAM, sends an unmistakable message that the United States stands with Ukraine, stands against Putin, and stands with all efforts to hold Putin accountable for the atrocities levied upon the Ukrainian people.

Putin is not winning militarily, so now, this evil man is trying to win by massacring civilians, massacring babies, parents, the elderly, pregnant women, shooting at hospitals, sending missiles to hospitals, apartment buildings, et cetera—just as he did in Syria, just as he did in Chechnya—wiping out the civilian population in hopes of winning.

But in his monomaniacal hubris, Putin has severely underestimated the Ukrainian people. Every time an innocent Ukrainian is killed, the resolve of the Ukrainian people grows stronger. And we stand with them.

We have all seen the images, heard the stories, and watched the videos of the reality of this awful war. Hundreds—maybe even thousands—of civilians have been killed, as I said, from the elderly all the way down to babies not even a month old. These atrocities deserve to be investigated for war crimes.

Entire cities with hundreds of thousands of people have been left with no water, no power, no connection to the outside world. Unable to overtake Ukraine in a quick strike, Russian forces seem to be openly targeting sites that have little military significance.

Today, I am proud to ask unanimous consent and ask all of my colleagues to support today's legislation condemning Putin's atrocities and supporting efforts to hold him accountable before the eyes of the entire world.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 546, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 546) expressing the sense of the Senate condemning the Russian Federation, President Vladimir Putin, members of the Russian Security Council, the Russian Armed Forces, and Russian military commanders for committing atrocities, including alleged war crimes, against the people of Ukraine and others.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 546) was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have several more wrap-ups.

Would the Senator from Mississippi indulge me?

Mr. WICKER. Absolutely.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I thank the Senator once again. He is always courteous. Even when we disagree, he is very courteous.

Mr. WICKER. Which is often.

Mr. SCHUMER. Which—I hasten to add for his sake—is often.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 420, 421, 423, 425, 730, 472, and 784; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions, and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the following nominations en bloc: Kinan Azmeh, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2024; Constance Hess Williams, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2026; Christopher Kauai Morgan, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2024; Jake Shimabukuro, of Hawaii, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2024; Kathryn Kahrs Mathew, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2026; Rachel Jacobson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army; and Beth Van Schaack, of California, to be Ambassador at Large for Global Criminal Justice?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 117-81, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States: The Honorable Jon Kyl of Arizona and The Honorable Lisa Gordon-Hagerty of Florida.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, tomorrow, March 16, at 11:45 a.m., the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 656, the nomination of Jacqueline Corley, and on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 738, the nomination of Fred Slaughter; further, at 3 p.m., the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Calendar No. 682, the nomination of Ruth Montenegro, and the motion to invoke cloture on Calendar No. 678, the nomination of Victoria Calvert; that if cloture is invoked on any of these nominations, the Senate vote on confirmation at a time to be determined by the majority leader or designee following consultation with the Republican leader; finally, that the remaining cloture motions ripen at a time to be determined by the majority leader or designee following consultation with the Republican leader.

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

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 16; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Corley nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. For the information of Senators, the first rollcall votes of the day will begin at 11:45 a.m.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators PORTMAN, WICKER, and BLUMENTHAL.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

UKRAINE

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I thank the distinguished majority leader for working with the distinguished minority leader and with Senator GRAHAM for bringing this important legislation to the floor tonight.

It says what many of us have been saying for a long time and which I wish the President of the United States, our Commander in Chief, would explicitly say tonight or tomorrow: that Vladimir Putin is a serial war criminal and that he should be investigated by the war crimes authorities internationally, brought to justice, and made to pay not only for his genocide and war crimes of the last 2½ weeks but also for Aleppo and Grozny and the tens of thousands—tens of thousands—of innocent civilians that he has killed by his desires out of some other century to conquer his neighbors.

I was mentioning 1938 and 1939. When Hitler went into the Sudetenland, he told naive Western governments: That will be the end of it. If we get that, we will have peace in our time.

And some leaders of the allies were convinced that that was true.

Vladimir Putin hasn't even said he is going to stop with Ukraine. So who in the world thinks that if he gets away with this, he will stop there? I don't believe he will, and here is why: Not only Aleppo, not only Grozny, but this is a man who, without question, poisons his political opponents. When they leave the country to get medical treatment, he causes them to be charged for breaking the terms of their parole and puts them in prison. That is his political opponent, Mr. Navalny, who had the temerity to be a candidate for President against Mr. Putin.

We are talking about the Vladimir Putin who authorizes the assassination of former members of the Russian Government because they have the temerity to oppose him. We are talking about the very same person in Vladimir Putin who jails persons for years and years who dare to oppose him or disagree with him publicly, who invents enormous lies and gets some people even in the West to believe it when he broadcasts the enormous lies through his monopoly of the media.

This man can be stopped in this Ukrainian war, and we are going to hear tomorrow morning from a courageous leader who has risen beyond the expectations of so many people in the free world, President Zelenskyy, and I intend to be there along with my colleagues wishing him the best.

I think I can say for our delegation that we might have nuances on how these things can be done, but we are united on ideas, like getting the Polish MiGs somehow into the hands of the Ukrainian fighter pilots who can then use them to win the war, the equipment from other NATO countries and European countries enhancing Ukraine's air defense, and sending more troops to harden the borders and the eastern flank of our NATO Allies.

I would say to the President of the United States: Mr. Biden, you have been too risk averse, too late from time to time, from step to step on all of the sanctions that we have needed, on the delivery of weapons.

We brought the administration along, but they have been a day late or a couple of days late or a week late. It is time for us to show international leadership on this. Even today, almost 3 weeks into the war, we have not yet dropped the full load of sanctions on Russia. We need to do that, and I call on the President and the administration to listen to those of us who were just in Eastern Europe.

History shows that weakness breeds war, instead of pacifying tyrants, weakness emboldens tyrants like Vladimir Putin. The good news is that with the help of NATO and Western arms, the Ukrainian military has defied all expectations. The intelligence reports that we have heard on the public media—this is nothing secret—was that in 3 or 4 days the Ukrainian military would be overrun by this vast Russian military behemoth.

That has not happened, in fact. These people, defending their homeland, defending their country, through the leadership of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, have shown courage. They refuse to flee, and they have rallied the American people and the entire world in a lesson of leadership.

If President Zelenskyy survives until the morning, I will be cheering him from Capitol Hill on his remarks, just as the British Parliament did last week. This war is far from over. Suffering and dying refugees will continue every day, and I call on President Biden to recognize that Vladimir Putin is not simply at war with Ukraine, but they are at war with the entire free world, and this is our best opportunity to stop him. Our Baltic allies in NATO understand this. They know they can be next on Putin's kill list.

Now is our moment to make sure this is the last time that Putin and his band of war criminals invade a sovereign country. We watched it happen with the Transnistria. We watched it happen with the Republic of Georgia, in South Ossetia, and in Abkhazia. We watched

it happen with the Donbas and with Crimea.

It is time to stop Vladimir Putin's expansionism. We should be enabling the Ukrainians to defend their own airspace, and we have not yet done all we can do. We need to be creative, but we need to take calculated risks because the future of the rules-based world order is at stake.

Western deterrence has so far failed, and now Putin is thinking he can succeed in shredding the rule book of the post-Cold War international order. It is up to us, and it is up to our Commander In Chief to restore faith in that order and to protect the free world.

And I am glad to be joined on the floor with my friend the distinguished senior Senator from Connecticut and was honored to join him and our other colleagues on the trip this last weekend to Eastern Europe.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I want to thank my really distinguished and able colleague and friend from Ohio, Senator PORTMAN, and Senator WICKER, and also Senator KLOBUCHAR, who accompanied us on this trip and enabled us to be so much more effective because of her very perceptive and insightful wisdom on these topics and her experience with the issues that we confronted, and a special thanks to Senator PORTMAN for so ably organizing us and also to enable us to meet with senior members of the Polish Government, our own Ambassador, Mark Brzezinski, who is doing such a great job there, along with his team at the embassy, the brave men and women of the 82nd Airborne Division and, heartbreakingly, the women and children who are fleeing Ukraine with nothing more than what they could carry on their backs.

I want to thank, as well, Senator SCHUMER for bringing to the floor this resolution, and Senator GRAHAM for his leadership. This resolution is a very powerful and compelling message to the world that the United States will stand strongly with the people of Ukraine against this brutal, insidious invasion by Vladimir Putin and Russia.

And, tomorrow, we will hear from President Zelenskyy, whose passionate and powerful plea for action will no doubt elicit more words of support. But we need more than words now. We need more than declarations of support. We need action—action that will make a difference on the battlefield. And let me just say very bluntly and simply: The Ukrainian resistance has proved to be more courageous, resilient, tough, and effective than Vladimir Putin ever imagined.

It has become the wonder and admiration of the world. It is not only their trained army, it is the men and women who took to the streets and the fields using weapons that we have supplied—the Stinger and Javelin missiles—to hit Russia's most advanced weapons system, their aircraft, as well as their tanks, and take them out.

If the Ukrainian people have a fair fight on the ground, they will win. They will drive Russia out of their precious land. But right now there is no fair fight. Right now, in the skies, Putin dominates. He has the aircraft, the missiles, to do insidious damage and to wound, damage, and destroy the Ukrainian ground forces.

And he was using that air superiority with consummate recklessness while we were in Poland. Just hours before we visited the border crossing at Korczowa, 30 of his missiles rained down on a training center in Yavoriv, 12 miles away. Let me repeat: 12 miles away from that border crossing. The Polish authorities there told us the ground shook with the tremor of those bombs hitting a training center just 12 miles from the Polish border.

Vladimir Putin was literally playing with fire. One of those missiles going astray into Poland could have triggered dramatic escalation, nuclear confrontation, and destruction of unknown magnitude.

Vladimir Putin is recklessly taking this fight westward in Ukraine, to the very border, the very doorstep of a NATO ally that we have an obligation to defend. And part of our trip was to visit with the 82nd Airborne—so impressive, these young men and women, in their intelligence, as well as their dedication and bravery. They are holding the line. More and more of them are there. And they are also enabling support for Ukraine in the kind of arms—Stingers and Javelins—that are needed.

But we must do more than what we are doing now. And in that respect, I join my colleagues. We have a common message. I personally appreciate what the administration has done in its providing support—those Javelin and Stinger missiles, the ammunition, night goggles, drone spare parts and more—but we must do more to counter that air superiority, the dominance in Putin's missiles and jet fighters.

I personally believe that we should provide more aircraft, the jet fighters that President Zelenskyy has desperately requested. But I also think there are tools that we can provide: anti-air batteries to bring down the planes and the missiles, defense mechanisms that Vladimir Putin cannot call escalatory under any possible definition, and, likewise, means of defense that the people of Ukraine desperately need and deserve to successfully defend.

There is no way any of these weapon systems are offensive. They are defensive, whether it is planes, Stinger and Javelin missiles, drones—all of it is to defend their country and do it effectively and have a fair fight on the ground against Putin's air dominance.

We saw, heartrendingly, women and children coming from that bombing in Yavoriv at the border crossing. Literally, we visited with them, spoke with them, saw and heard the grief and misery, the tragedy and trauma that they are enduring.

Almost all were women and children because the men have stayed to fight, and they brought with them bags of clothing, their pets, stuffed animals—all they could carry but no more—facing a future of total uncertainty, not knowing when, if at all, they would return, and when, if at all, they would see their husbands, brothers, sons who were left to fight.

We must make sure that Ukraine stays in that fight, and we can do it if we raise our commitment.

I appreciate what the administration has done in its skillful use of public intelligence, its uniting of our allies, its adroit rallying of America, but now is the time to do more, and it must be done urgently. The time is now. Days, weeks—not on our side. Time works against us the longer we allow Putin to command the skies in the way that he does now, the longer innocent people will be slaughtered in their homes, in hospital, in maternity wards, and the longer the world will be put at risk of another attack on a nuclear facility that could spread radioactive contamination throughout the country and even through Europe.

The trauma and terror on the faces of those women and children, the tears that we saw, will stay with me forever. I was reminded of my own family, my dad who came to this country in 1935 to escape the Holocaust. He, too, came with not much more than the shirt on his back. He spoke virtually no English. He knew no one. He brought his entire family—his immediate family, but he lost much of his other family.

America has always been a nation of immigrants and refugees, and we have always spread our generosity to them, and now, likewise, in Connecticut we see the Ukrainian-American community providing clothing and blankets, donations, along with the Polish-American community. Indeed, throughout the State of Connecticut and throughout the country, America's hearts are going out to these refugees in this humanitarian crisis. That is what we do in America.

That is what we saw, in fact, Americans and others doing at the World Central Kitchen in the reception area that we visited. My colleagues and I served chicken, vegetables, rice, potatoes for a couple more hours to these refugees, and we had, I think, a tremendously uplifting experience.

I mention it because, as Senator PORTMAN has said so eloquently, even in the midst of this evil, we saw good in that team at the World Central Kitchen; in the 82nd Airborne; our men and women in uniform; and the Embassy staff who were willing to risk their lives in Kyiv and stay in Lviv and finally move from Lviv to Warsaw; our Foreign Service; our men and women in uniform; and of course the people of Poland who have welcomed these refugees, literally welcomed them into their homes, 2 million of them, 10 percent or more of the population of War-

saw alone—an effort of unprecedented magnitude in recent history.

And as we returned home, so grateful for the good in those people, it was brought on me again to realize that this invasion was a war of choice. That evil in Moscow is one man.

I still believe the Russian people, if they knew what was going on in Ukraine, would throw him out. That is not to say that he should be assassinated or that he should be attacked.

I believe that if there were a democratic process with full and fair information in Russia, there is no way that Vladimir Putin would survive a democracy.

And so I think we must continue to tighten the economic sanctions to bring that pain home to the Russians to make them feel the hurt they have inflicted on others and to know that they have a responsibility to end this conflict.

They must do more, as we must do more, and our action must tighten and broaden economic sanctions to stop Vladimir Putin from continuing to reap the revenue of sales of oil and gas.

I commend the administration for stopping importation of Russian oil and gas to this country, but other Western countries continue to do it and other countries around the world, and therefore I am partnering in a measure with Senator BLACKBURN of Tennessee, urging the President to work with our allies to halt Russia's ability to sell its oil and gas on Western markets, to stop the connection of all Russian banks to the SWIFT financial system, which is the means for him to reap that revenue.

If he is cut off from it, his ability to sell that oil and gas and reap the revenue and finance, his war machine is broken.

And a bill—a second measure—introduced today with Senators WHITEHOUSE, GRAHAM, and my colleague from Mississippi Senator WICKER, provides the President with authority to seize and sell all of the superyachts, the jets, mansions, and luxury possessions of Putin's criminal kleptocracy as well as his cronies, his family, and others. These ill-begotten gains will be used to support Ukrainian freedom fighters, rebuild Ukraine, and provide humanitarian assistance to those refugees we saw escaping.

I have no illusions that Putin can be forced right away to the negotiating table, but these measures will eventually force him to respond.

We must give the people of Ukraine a fair fight. We must act immediately to provide them with the support they need to stop Putin's war in the air. Much as Winston Churchill rallied Britain in the Battle of Britain to survive and resolve at the beginning of World War II in the Battle of Britain to resist Hitler's onslaught from the air, so, too, the people of Ukraine are fighting their battle, and we must respond with action. Our security is at peril. Our defense is at risk. The economic

implications are perilous, and the world order is threatened.

This time is a turning point, and we must enable Ukraine to chart its own course to remain as a free and sovereign nation and to have a fair fight.

I yield the floor, and I yield back to my colleague from Mississippi.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. The Senator from Connecticut is correct to commend the massive efforts to prevent the humanitarian suffering in Ukraine and in Poland.

The dozens of nongovernmental organizations, such as the World Food Kitchen, the USAID Agency, a part of our Federal Government, the World Food Programme, the diplomatic corps, both of the United States and our allies, and certainly our American military, the 82nd Airborne.

But let me conclude by making this profoundly important point: What we have heard tonight on both sides of the aisle are bipartisan calls for us to do more.

In this system that we have under our Constitution, we have one Commander in Chief at a time, and we have heard from Democrats and Republicans tonight on the floor of the U.S. Senate that we need to do more. This administration needs to do more. This Commander in Chief can do more and needs to do more to help this small country preserve their freedom, to win against this war criminal and his unprovoked aggression, and to preserve the international order that has governed civilized nations for decades and decades.

I hope the administration is hearing the bipartisan message that we bring back from our observations and that we are hearing from our constituents.

I yield back to my dear friend from Ohio.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, first I want to say that I appreciate my colleagues being on the floor tonight and their really moving statements about the crisis in Ukraine and the atrocities that are being committed there.

And I think what you did tonight is you added a lot of texture and perspective to the resolution that just passed this body by a unanimous vote. Nobody objected. We are now on record here in this body with a strong statement of support for Ukraine and strong opposition to the atrocities being committed and our commitment to do more.

So, again, I appreciated being with you in Poland, and I appreciated your coming to the floor tonight.

I am going to pick up where I had left off and talk a little more about what we can do because that is the real question that faces us here in the U.S. Senate.

We talked a lot about military assistance tonight, and we, again, I think, had a consensus among us as to what we need to do to help the Ukrainians

protect themselves, particularly from the aerial assault that they are under.

I know we also have another colleague who couldn't be here on the floor because of scheduling concerns, as I said earlier, Senator KLOBUCHAR, but she will be making a statement for the record that will go along with our statements tonight. I look forward to seeing that.

The four of us got in at about midnight last night, and we come back with a heavy heart but also lots of advice for our government as to how we can do more.

On the humanitarian side, the United States has got a key role to play as well, not just on military assistance but on ensuring that people who are fleeing this conflict and people internally displaced have the help they need.

We support our European partners who have opened their homes, as I said earlier, and their borders to Ukrainian refugees. In fact, they have provided a 3-year visa, in essence, to Ukrainians in the European Union and permission to work, and this is, I think, a strong signal of the special relationship that the countries of the EU feel toward Ukraine, which I hope someday will be a member of the European Union, as do they.

Congress just passed some immediate help for Ukraine. It was in legislation called the Omnibus appropriations bill a few days ago. That will help AID here in the United States and other organizations around the world be able to help with these refugees and help those Ukrainians who are trapped in cities under siege. To me this is the No. 1 priority right now.

Cities like Mariupol—you probably read that people have been without food and water for days—for days. There was a child—a girl, apparently—who died of dehydration recently, and others are going to be finding themselves in an impossible situation, not knowing where their next meal may come from. So we need to help them, particularly in these cities in the east and the south of the country that are under such terrible siege and being surrounded.

This is an unprecedented humanitarian disaster, and it is being caused by Vladimir Putin's attack on Ukraine—Vladimir Putin's war and Russia's war. The actions that they have undertaken have created the largest movement of refugees in Europe since World War II. That is already. By the way, I favor seizing, rather than freezing, the assets of Kremlin officials and oligarchs and then providing those proceeds to the refugees. Doesn't that make sense?

So when a billionaire has his assets frozen, it is one thing; but when they are seized, as some countries have done—France, Germany—the United States needs to step up and do that as well. We should be leading on this, not following. That is another thing that we can do to help get proceeds to help with the humanitarian efforts.

But I also have a message tonight to those Russian officials and to the Russian commanders on the ground, which is that you have a choice to make. You can stop this atrocity. You can refuse the orders to kill innocent civilians. You can stop this atrocity that has already taken the lives of thousands of civilians—men, women and children, your neighbors—your neighbors—some with family connections to Russia, who want nothing more than just to live in peace. You can stop this atrocity. Disobey the orders. The world is watching, and the war crimes are being recorded. You have a choice.

On sanctions: We talked a little bit about this earlier tonight, but we need more and faster sanctions. We need to remove all Russian banks from their access to the global financial system. Russia must be financially cut off from the rest of the world, or it won't work. We have already seen the pain that we can inflict using a portion of our sanction authority. We need to do more.

We need to exert maximum pressure to ensure no money can be sent to Russia to fund the war effort. This is one reason it was so important that we finally stopped the importation of Russian oil and gas. Why would we want to send \$40- or \$50 million a day, which we were sending to Russia to be used for the war machine.

But we can implement full blocking sanctions on all Russian banks, and we can ensure that energy transactions are not exempt from these sanctions. That is very important, because right now there are some exemptions for energy.

Russia should not use its oil profits to kill innocent Ukrainians. That should be our principle. We should not allow money to flow down like water in cracks in the pavement. We should pass legislation to ensure that these funds stop—and not by June 24, which is in the sanctions that the administration has put forward, but now—blocking sanctions now, not for the energy sector transactions on June 24. That is too long.

I think we should move ahead with legislation to cut off most-favored-nation treatment. This is the permanent trade relationship with Russia we granted back in 2012, bringing them into the World Trade Organization. Access to the U.S. market is a privilege, not a right. And we should not only ensure that we are not giving Russia that privilege of access to our markets—lower tariffs of all kinds of products, including oil and gas—but also that other countries of the world follow suit. That way it would be much more effective.

But I would like to go beyond most-favored-nation treatment tonight and suggest that we also suspend our tax treaty with Russia. Why would we want to have a tax treaty that provides tax benefits to Russian businesses? Again, our principle there could be no tax breaks for invaders. That would make more sense.

We also need to sanction the Russian energy sector with currency and blocking sanctions, as I said, right now—not June 24. I know this is more difficult on the Europeans who are more dependent on Russia for energy, but there are many steps the United States can take to help expand energy production here at home and help our allies abroad.

I met with someone today who is trying to set up LNG terminals in places like Germany and also Ireland and other countries to bring liquefied natural gas to Europe. We have plenty of natural gas in this country. We are blessed with it. We should use it to help our allies.

Finally, I would like to advocate for a similar approach to how we designated Iranian entities in 2018, when we left the JCPOA. We did not issue sanctions or waivers to European companies that continued to do business with Iran's economy. We forced those companies to leave Iran's market, even at the displeasure of some of those governments. The bottom line: It can't be business as usual.

There is a popular Ukrainian national rallying cry, "Slava Ukraini!" When translated into English, it means "Glory to Ukraine." "Slava Ukraini."

There is a response to that rallying cry, which is "Glory to the Heroes." "Heroiam Slava." So "Slava Ukraini" and in response, "Heroiam Slava."

And even in these dark times, there are many heroes. While we heard firsthand about the worst of humanity represented by the brutal bombings of civilian targets, we also saw the best of humanity at work. And we saw acts of kindness and generosity: Polish border guards helping carry suitcases of mothers who were overwhelmed as they carried young children in their arms, fleeing from the only home they have ever known; volunteers at the reception center where they provided healthcare and lodging and served thousands of meals a day to frightened and bewildered families who were waiting to move on to homes that generous Poles, Germans, and others in the EU had opened up for them.

In the midst of this atrocity, there are so many heroes to glorify in Ukraine. Yes, glory to the heroes: the brave border guards on Snake Island; the grandmother bravely walking up to Russian soldiers and handing them sunflower seeds, saying: If you don't leave, this is so that something beautiful will grow on your grave; the courageous President of Ukraine who when asked by western countries if they could help him escape, responded simply: "I need ammunition, not a ride."

"I need ammunition, not a ride."

President Zelenskyy's bravery and resilience has been an inspiration to Ukrainians and freedom-loving people everywhere. Tomorrow, he will be here virtually in a joint session of Congress to talk to all of us, and I look forward to it.

Glory to the everyday heroes who are caring for the wounded, feeding desperate families huddling in basements and subway stations, glory to the professional soldiers and citizens alike who have taken up arms and are putting their lives on the line to defend their beloved homeland in the cause of freedom, against great odds. Glory to the heroes. Heroiam Slava. Godspeed to them in their battle for a free and independent Ukraine.

Some may ask—and some of my colleagues here have asked me: Why does a Senator from Ohio get involved in Ukraine? Why do you care? Well, tens of thousands of Ukrainian Americans call Ohio home, as do hundreds of thousands of others who trace their family to that part of the world; and it is an honor to represent them and their values.

I stood together with a thousand fellow Ohioans at a prayer service and rallied for Ukraine 2 weeks ago in Parma, OH, just outside of Cleveland. We prayed for family and friends in Ukraine who are in harm's way. We prayed for the courageous Ukrainian troops and asked for God's wisdom and blessing on the duly elected Government of Ukraine and, of course, for the protection of President Zelenskyy.

Ohioans like Andy Futey and Marta Liscynsky are rallying support across our State and coordinating efforts to provide humanitarian relief to those in need in Ukraine and in neighboring European countries. They are heading up through the United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio a fund called the Fund to Aid Ukraine. I contributed to it. They do great work.

Two weeks ago, Sunday, I was honored to speak at an emotional rally in Washington, DC, much like the one in Parma, OH, only larger. Again, many Ohioans were there. And this past weekend on the border between Ukraine and Poland, Ohioans were there volunteering.

But even if I didn't have a single constituent of Ukrainian descent, I would be standing shoulder to shoulder with the people of Ukraine because this fight is our fight. This is where, in our generation at this time, all freedom-loving people are called to defend what we hold dear.

Eight years ago, Ukrainians made a choice. They stood up to a corrupt Russian-backed government. They stood up for freedom, for free markets, for peace and prosperity, and for the rule of law. They looked to America, and they looked to the EU. They chose freedom over tyranny. They chose a democracy over an authoritarian regime. I was there in 2014, right after the Heavenly Hundred who stood up to the corrupt Russian-backed government were killed in what was called the Euromaidan or the Revolution of Dignity. I saw firsthand then the commitment the people of Ukraine had to freedom and independence, to charting their own course.

Right now, those friends in Ukraine need our help. We cannot let this call

to action go unanswered. We cannot sit by and watch as innocent civilians are brutally killed.

America and our allies must stand up for freedom, and the world is watching. Our friends are watching. Our adversaries are watching. We must show them that America stands with Ukraine.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I want to add one more quotation to the very stirring and powerful words that my colleague from Ohio has just given us.

Decades ago, President John F. Kennedy went to Berlin, and in a statement of resolve and commitment that mobilized the world, he said then, "I am a Berliner." And he spoke for America.

Today, we are all Ukrainians. Just as he said that he, as an American, was a Berliner, today, we are Ukrainian.

My colleague from Ohio is absolutely right that this fight is ours and there are actions we can take—not just words—that will make a difference: actions that should not and will not involve American troops or an escalatory response, actions that will be in the best tradition of the United States, going back to our own Revolution when we overcame a more massive British force. We didn't need to defeat them; we simply needed to survive. And by surviving, George Washington understood that the British would be defeated.

And so we can enable resilience and resolve of the Ukrainian people to defeat the Russians, if we give them what we need, if we give them more of what we have been giving them. And today, truly, this bell tolls for us; and it is the world's fight, not just the Ukrainians'.

I thank my friend and fellow Senator from Ohio for leading us on this trip, and I hope that our colleagues, a few of them may have heard us tonight at this hour—but I hope they will come to the floor and that we will continue this conversation because it is a debate that really unites all of us across the aisle, as did the resolution which passed overwhelmingly.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10:30 tomorrow morning.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:54 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

RHEANNE WIRKALA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE ROBERT R. HOOD, RESIGNED.

BRENDAN OWENS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE LUCIAN NIEMEYER.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

SUSIE FELIZ, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE MICHAEL PLATT, JR., RESIGNED.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

REBECCA F. DYE, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2025. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CARMEN G. CANTOR, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE DOUGLAS W. DOMENECH.

UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

JANET KELLER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2023, VICE ELIZABETH F. BAGLEY, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SHEFALI RAZDAN DUGGAL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. STEPHEN R. SMITH

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) JACQUELYN MCCLELLAND

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) ERIC C. RUTTENBERG

REAR ADM. (LH) THOMAS S. WALL

REAR ADM. (LH) LARRY D. WATKINS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) MICHAEL J. STEFFEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. CHARLES KIROL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. MARK R. MYERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. DAVID M. BUZZETTI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. DAVID G. MALONE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. CHARLES M. BROWN

CAPT. INGRID M. RADER

CAPT. MICHAEL TANNER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. ROBERT J. DODSON

CAPT. MICHAEL S. RICHMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. LUKE A. FROST

CAPT. MARK B. SUCATO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. DAVID J. FAEHNLE
CAPT. CALVIN M. FOSTER
CAPT. JOAQUIN MARTINEZDEPINILLOS
CAPT. JOHN D. SACCOMANDO
CAPT. ANDREW J. SCHREINER
CAPT. KIMBERLY A. WALZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT
IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. DAVID H. DUTTLINGER

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by
the Senate March 15, 2022:

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE
HUMANITIES

KINAN AZMEH, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING
SEPTEMBER 3, 2024.

CONSTANCE HESS WILLIAMS, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO
BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS
FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2026.

CHRISTOPHER KAUI MORGAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A
MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR
A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2024.

JAKE SHIMABUKURO, OF HAWAII, TO BE A MEMBER OF
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EX-
PIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2024.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

RACHEL JACOBSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

SHALANDA D. YOUNG, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE DIRECTOR
OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE
HUMANITIES

KATHRYN KAHRS MATTHEW, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO
BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HU-
MANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2026.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BETH VAN SCHAACK, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBAS-
SADOR AT LARGE FOR GLOBAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUSPENDING ENERGY IMPORTS FROM RUSSIA ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, the world is in awe of the Ukrainian people, who have shown extraordinary courage and an iron will in the face of Russia's unprovoked war.

As we speak, they are putting their lives on the line to protect their sovereignty and territorial integrity, protect their families, and defend their democracy.

Indeed, the entire country—parents and children, rich and poor, in big cities and in small towns—have come together to safeguard their heritage and their home.

Tragically, Putin has met their heroism with accelerating brutality: reportedly bombing indiscriminately and attacking civilians, including children.

In doing so, the world has seen what the United Nations has deemed the “fastest growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War II.”

At this pivotal moment, America will not be delayed or deterred in taking action to counter Putin's aggression and support the Ukrainian people.

With historic speed and coordination with our allies and partners, America has led the international community in taking devastating action against Russia.

We have crippled the Russian economy: cutting off its banks, choking off its access to technology, targeting oligarchs funding this war—and much more.

We have bolstered our support for NATO—and today the House will pass \$13.6 billion in new funding for Ukraine for humanitarian, military and economic assistance.

And now, the House will take major and severe step to continue our ongoing efforts to hold Putin accountable for his aggression.

By passing the strong, bipartisan Suspending Energy Imports from Russia Act, we will further isolate Russia from the global economy and leave it weaker in every way.

For their relentless leadership in crafting this legislation, let us salute Congressmen LLOYD DOGGETT and EARL BLUMENAUER.

And thank you to Ways and Means Chairman RICHIE NEAL for his masterful work to steer this urgent package to the Floor.

This legislation contains three primary provisions.

First, we are banning the import of Russian oil and energy products into the United States.

This will tighten our stranglehold on Russia by cutting off the lifeblood of its economy—and a major source of Putin's wealth. Congress commends President Biden for announcing this step in his remarks today—and we will support his initiative with this legislation.

At the same time, American production of oil and gas is approaching record highs—and we

will continue working to protect families from Putin's Price Hike. In the long-term, America must move to diversify our energy sources: to defend democracy, protect our planet and bring down energy costs for our families.

Second, we are taking steps to review Russia's access to the World Trade Organization.

Access to the benefits of international trade is a privilege—not a right. By moving to deprive them of these benefits, we seek to further diminish Russia in the global economy.

Third, we are reauthorizing and strengthening the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act.

Enacted in 2016, the Global Magnitsky Act broadened the human rights abuses that can be punished with sanctions and bolstered coordination with our partners. The legislation we will pass today will ensure the United States can impose these sanctions on Russia for its heinous attacks on Ukrainian civilians and its violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

PROTECTING AMERICAN FAMILIES

Putin's aggression has caused severe disruption to global oil markets, helping to increase prices here at home and around the world.

But the United States does not need to choose between defending our democratic values and protecting our economic interests.

As Congress and the Administration continue to work together to cripple the Russian economy, we remain laser-focused on bringing down energy costs for American families and our partners stemming from Putin's invasion.

We salute President Biden for leading our allies in releasing 60 million barrels of oil from strategic reserves—including 30 million from American reserves in the SPR—to stabilize global markets.

CLOSE

This legislation is an urgent imperative: both morally, to stand with Ukraine, and strategically, to ensure our security interests.

And it is my hope that this package receives strong, bipartisan support worthy of the valor and sacrifice of the Ukrainian people.

With that, I urge a strong, bipartisan “aye” vote.

HAITI DEVELOPMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND INSTITUTIONAL TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, the House will proudly pass an omnibus government funding bill that delivers For The People: strengthening national security, bolstering economic prosperity and advancing democratic governance.

And this legislation will offer a strong foundation on which Democrats will continue our focus on Building a Better America: with lower costs, bigger paycheck and more jobs.

Thank you, Madam Chair ROSA DELAURO, for your tireless work in assembling this omnibus package. You have been a masterful force in crafting a package that will help us meet the needs of American families.

Let us also salute Ranking Member KAY GRANGER, as well as our committed counterparts in the Senate: Chairman PAT LEAHY and Ranking Member RICHARD SHELBY.

This legislation addresses many of the top priorities for our country and in our communities for the long-term.

For families, this means strong public schools; clean air and water; more public health resources; safe food and lower costs of insulin. With this bill, we are especially proud to increase the maximum Pell Grant by \$400; as well as establishing funding for President Biden's bold new ARPA-H initiative to finally defeat cancer.

For workers, it means better-paying jobs, support for our small businesses and a strong social safety net.

For women and girls, it means the long-overdue reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act: one of our nation's most powerful tools to safeguard safety, dignity and rights.

For our veterans, it means reliable benefits, reducing backlogs for veterans and their families seeking assistance, and meeting the needs of the VA's health care system.

For our national security, it means honoring the service of our troops with improvements to defense readiness and modernization, stronger defenses against cyber attacks and promoting our democratic values abroad.

Enacting this omnibus will also unlock billions in more federal dollars under our Bipartisan Infrastructure Law—delivering key investments in nearly every community across the country.

Doing so will help us rebuild our nation while reinvigorating our middle class: creating millions of good-paying jobs improving roads and bridges, public transit, ports and airports, water systems and broadband, and more.

As we proceed on this legislation, war rages on in Ukraine. This omnibus includes \$13.6 billion in emergency supplemental funding for humanitarian, military and economic assistance for Ukraine.

Today, I had the privilege of an extensive telephone conversation with President Zelensky. It afforded me the opportunity to praise the extraordinary courage and resolve of the Ukrainian people as they defend their communities and their democracy.

I also conveyed to him the sympathy of the Congress for the loss of life and livelihood in Ukraine—especially after Putin's barbaric attack on a maternity hospital, killing parents and children.

He expressed the gratitude of the Ukrainian people for the assistance that the United States has provided to date. But much more needs to be done. This legislation takes a strong step forward.

I am proud of the strong leadership of President Biden in his role in unifying NATO and

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

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

other allies to cripple Russia's economy in response to Putin's diabolical, premeditated assault on Ukraine and its democracy.

Again, I thank Chair DELAUNO for her masterful leadership—and I urge a “yes” vote.

TROY CHAPMAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Troy Chapman for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Troy Chapman is a student at Three Creeks K-8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Troy Chapman is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Troy Chapman for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING TONY HASS ON RECEIVING THE TRAILBLAZER AWARD

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tony Hass, owner of the Walking Y Ranch, on being honored with the Denver Business Journal's 2022 Who's Who in Agriculture Trailblazer Award. After 36 years running a 200 cow-calf operation, Tony received this prestigious honor in recognition of his dedicated career to Colorado's ranching and agricultural community.

Tony graduated Lamar Community College with an A.S. in animal science before beginning his more than 5,000 acre ranching operation and local butcher beef business. This true American company is notable for its outstanding economic impact in southeast Colorado.

Tony married his wife Connie and raised two wonderful children—Matthew and Breann—all while continuing to work for the Las Animas community. Today, he is the proud grandfather of Liam.

In addition to his many decades operating the Walking Y Ranch, Tony has proudly served the Las Animas community for more than three years as a County Commissioner with the hope of being a strong voice for the people of rural Colorado.

Through his work and service before self, Tony has garnered not only a well-earned reputation for ranching, but the respect of everyone in our community.

On behalf of Colorado's 4th District, I offer my sincerest congratulations to Tony for his

well-deserved award and thank him for his outstanding role in our regions agriculture and tireless commitment to making his community a better place to live.

HONORING JEFFREY STRAND

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 42+ year career of Hennepin County Civil Servant Jeffrey Strand.

Public service is a noble and tireless pursuit aimed at improving the lives of your neighbors and community. Jeff is a testament to that pursuit.

Jeff is retiring after 42+ years of dedicated service to our shared constituents of Hennepin County. His admirable public service will leave a legacy of vast knowledge, leadership, and kindness for the County's employees and constituents alike. We can only hope that our local, county, state, and federal governments fill their ranks with such dedicated servants like Jeff.

Jeff should be proud of the service he has provided to Hennepin County and I wish him the very best for the next phase of his life. Hennepin County is a better place because of his efforts and I know his fellow Hennepin County colleagues will cherish the memories of serving with him.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Jeffrey Strand for his hard work on behalf of Hennepin County, and to wish him well for his well-deserved retirement.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF FINDLAY BEING NAMED THE TOP MICROPOLITAN COMMUNITY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Findlay, Ohio, for being named the Top Micropolitan Community in the United States for the eighth year in a row by Site Selection Magazine. Findlay has routinely shown what a strong community with a commitment to prosperity can do through implementation of their renowned “Findlay Formula.” The city's focus on this formula continues to pay dividends and serves as an example to communities across the country.

In order to be considered a micropolitan city, the area must have a population ranging from 10,000 to 50,000. Cities that qualify were evaluated on business growth and economic sustainability. Findlay was able to secure this award for the eighth year in a row because of their focus on job creation, new construction, and capital investment that met Site Selection's criteria. In 2021, Findlay had an estimated \$160 million in capital investment and twenty-four qualifying projects. This investment has resulted in 1,600 net new employees hired in the Findlay area.

Fostering a cooperative environment between businesses and local government has

resulted in continued economic growth in Findlay. Over the past eight years, Findlay has completed over 200 projects and produced over 7,000 new jobs through an estimated \$1.65 billion in investment. This success would not be possible without the partnership and cooperation between the City of Findlay, the Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development office, the Hancock County Commissioners, and the entire Findlay community.

Congratulations to Findlay, for another year as the Nation's top-ranked Micropolitan Community.

HUNTER KOZNEY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Hunter Kozney for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Hunter Kozney is a student at Three Creeks K-8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Hunter Kozney is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Hunter Kozney for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING ERNEST JONES

HON. EARL L. “BUDDY” CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Ernest Jones of Waycross, Georgia for his victory with the Los Angeles Rams in Super Bowl LVI.

Ernest is no stranger to successful seasons, his Senior year on the Ware County Gators High School Football team, he recorded 112 tackles, six tackles for loss, two sacks, three forced fumbles, and was named first-team Class 5-AAAAA.

From Ware County, Ernest committed to play football at the University of South Carolina, where he quickly became a starter following his freshman year.

Ernest led the team in tackles following his sophomore and junior seasons with ninety-seven tackles his sophomore year and eighty-six tackles his junior year, with five tackles for loss.

The Los Angeles Rams selected Ernest with the 103rd pick of the 2021 NFL Draft and became the starter in week eight of their championship run.

In the Super Bowl, Ernest was a force to be reckoned with, amassing seven tackles, one

sack, and a pass block in the Rams' victory over the Cincinnati Bengals.

Ernest is a prime example of hard work, dedication, and has a contagious love for the game of football.

His work ethic and drive are examples for us all to follow, and we are blessed to have him here in the First District of Georgia.

I Congratulate Ernest on being a world champion.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ACT OF 2022

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2022, a version of which I have introduced in seven previous Congresses. My bill would establish and expand prekindergarten programs in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-old children. The prekindergarten years are critical for children's brain development.

My bill seeks a breakthrough in public education by providing funding for states to add prekindergarten for children at three and four years of age, like kindergarten programs for five-year-old children now routinely available in public schools. This bill would eliminate major shortcomings of unevenly available day care and, importantly, would take advantage of the safe facilities required in public schools.

My bill provides federal funds to states, which must be matched by at least 20 percent of a state's own funds, to establish or expand universal, voluntary prekindergarten in public and public charter schools, regardless of income. The classes, which would be part of a full-day program and run throughout the entire school year, must be taught by teachers who possess equivalent qualifications to those teaching other grades in the school. The funds would supplement, not supplant, other federal funds for early childhood education. The unique moneysaving aspect of my bill is that it uses the existing public-school infrastructure and trained teachers to make early childhood education available to all, saving billions of dollars in implementation costs.

The success of Head Start and other prekindergarten programs, combined with new scientific evidence on the importance of brain development in early childhood, virtually mandates the expansion of early childhood education to all children. Early learning programs mainly have been available only to the affluent, who can afford them, and to some low-income families in programs such as Head Start, which would be unaffected by my bill. My bill provides a practical way to universal, public preschool education for the majority of families. The goal of the bill is to afford the benefits of early childhood education to the working poor, lower middle class and middle class, most of whom have been left out of this essential education for their children.

We cannot afford to allow the most fertile years for childhood development to pass unenriched. My bill responds to the great

needs of parents who seek early childhood education, as well as to today's brain science, which shows that a child's brain development begins much earlier than had been previously understood.

Considering the staggering cost of day care, the inaccessibility of early childhood education and the opportunity that early education offers to improve a child's chances of success, schooling for three- and four-year-old children is overdue. The absence of viable options for families demands our immediate attention.

My bill reflects what jurisdictions throughout the nation increasingly are trying to accomplish. The District of Columbia, for example, has achieved an extensive integration of early childhood education as part of a larger effort to improve D.C. public schools.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DAVID BAYNE

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a resident of Connecticut's 4th Congressional District and a friend, David Bayne.

David is an attorney and the President of the Board of Directors of Connecticut CASA, a great organization dedicated to fostering a statewide network of Court Appointed Special Advocates to serve the best interests of children who have dealt with abuse or neglect, and he's been a committed public servant to the town of Darien for nearly 20 years.

During his career, David has been a Selectman, a member of the Representative Town Meeting in Darien, a transportation specialist for the Connecticut League of Women Voters, and a member of the Weed Beach Building Committee. He also spent 17 years on Darien's Democratic Town Committee and served in various roles including Chairman.

David has always understood the importance of service and activism, and the capacity of those seeking to get involved and positively impact the lives of Connecticut residents. It has been a pleasure to work with David and I look forward to seeing the next phase of David's career of service to Darien, and the State of Connecticut.

DEVIN THOMA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Devin Thoma for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Devin Thoma is a student at Three Creeks K-8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Devin Thoma is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all

levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Devin Thoma for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

MRS. TERESA VERA PEREZ

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Teresa Vera Perez of Conception, Texas, who dedicated her life to serving the people of Duval County.

Mrs. Perez was born on November 25, 1933, to Saturnina Vera and Francisca Saenz Vera. At the age of 18, she married Mr. Asildo Lopez Perez with whom she shared a life for 57 years. During this time, they raised five children together: Elena, Ester, Eloy, and twins Eduardo and Ernesto.

Mrs. Perez first ran for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2 in 1977 and won, making her the first female Justice of the Peace in Duval County history. She served a total of three terms, becoming a lifelong member of the Texas Justices of the Peace and Constables Association and Chaplain for the South Texas Association of Justices of the Peace and Constables. In addition to her time serving as Justice of the Peace, Mrs. Perez also worked as a Nurse's Aide at the P&S Hospital, previously located in Alice, Texas. Following her 12 years as Justice of the Peace, she continued to serve as an Honorable Judge by joining couples in matrimony.

Mrs. Perez was an active member of the Duval County and the Conception communities throughout her lifetime. She proudly served as a Eucharistic Minister and member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Altar and Rosary Society as well as the Guadalupana and the Fiesta Del Rancho Committee. She was also crowned Queen of the Elderly Nutrition program twice. In 1993, at the age of 60 years old, she obtained her GED diploma in Alice, Texas. Mrs. Perez passed away on January 23, 2014. Although she is no longer with us, her memory remains eternal.

Madam Speaker, I stand here today to acknowledge the countless achievements and charitable acts of Mrs. Teresa Vera Perez. She devoted her life to the betterment of her community and her legacy will be no doubt be remembered by all who knew her. Her general love for life, her family, the Lord, and commitment to her neighbors is admirable. May she rest in peace.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT DANIEL CUADRA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Robert Daniel Cuadra.

Fatally struck by a stray bullet on January 19, 2022, I stand before you to say goodbye to Robert and wish him well in the next life.

Robert was a kind, respectful and polite young man. He loved his family and cared deeply about his future. His life was not easy, but a rough start would not define him. He would work hard and chase after his dreams. Robert understood clearly that he would have to fight for every inch of progress.

A senior at HARP Academy and a participant in the Upward Bound Program at Montclair University, Robert challenged himself academically. Often so engrossed in his studies, Robert chose to forgo time with his friends to prepare for college. He was a self-described homebody and favored time alone with his immediate family.

While enrolled at Upward Bound, a program for disadvantaged high school students, Robert blossomed. Montclair University was a place he felt comfortable and accepted. Taking classes in subjects that inspired him and interacting with people who shared his interests motivated him. Robert was on track, there was light at the end of the tunnel. He could find himself and engage in the many wonderful experiences that make our youth a memorable time.

As a father and grandfather, I can only imagine the hurt. I ask the Cuadra family to continue to tell stories about Robert and breathe life into his memory for his siblings and extended family. Robert's passing is especially difficult and its tragic to have lost a young man with so much potential. Our community was enriched by people like him, and his actions set an example for all to follow.

My heart breaks for Robert and I know he will be missed by many people. It is my hope that the love and support of friends and all those whose lives he touched will help the Cuadra family manage the loss of Robert. My thoughts and prayers are with all of them during this time of mourning. Robert brought happiness into our lives and everyone around him.

As we honor him today, I know there are still many young men and women in similar situations. While this moment in time is undeniably sad, we should draw inspiration from his story. Robert struggled and fought to get ahead in life. We honor him because he reminds us that life can be difficult, but we should never give up in the face of adversity.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, friends, family, and the residents of New Jersey in recognizing the memory of Robert Daniel Cuadra. We keep him in prayer, and we commit to watch over his family. Robert, may he rest in peace.

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING DR. BENJAMIN "BENJIE" SANTIAGO ON BEING SELECTED AS THE 2021 GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. Benjamin "Benjie" Santiago on being selected as

the 2021 Guam Department of Education (GDOE) Teacher of the Year. Dr. Santiago is an exemplary teacher whose commitment to service and devotion to community have and continue to inspire our youth, foster great leadership, and expand opportunities for our island students to lead successful lives.

The Teacher of the Year Program is the oldest and most prestigious national honors program focused on recognizing excellence in teaching. Providing a platform for highlighting both the extraordinary work and dedication of educators across the country and the importance of quality education in the futures of our youth, island, and nation, this program has uniquely directed community accolades to outstanding teachers in Guam since 1969. Following a rigorous nomination, evaluation, and observation process, Dr. Santiago was awarded the honor from among six finalists.

Dr. Santiago first discovered his passion for teaching when he took on roles as an instructor at cultural dance academies and a local fitness organization. Embracing his calling to help others on their personal paths of achievement, he navigated an extensive teaching career that has resulted in what is now 25 years with GDOE. In 1993, Dr. Santiago earned his Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education from the University of Guam. He then went on to earn his master's and doctoral degrees in education and educational leadership from the University of Portland and Argosy University respectively. Today, Dr. Santiago celebrates over 15 years of service to students and colleagues as a cultural dance and journalism teacher at Agueda I. Johnston Middle School.

As demonstrated by his countless achievements, Dr. Santiago has consistently gone above and beyond his duties within the school system. In addition to collaborative curriculum and intervention development for holistic student success, Dr. Santiago has served as an in-house mentor for new teachers, coordinated cultural events for his school community, and successfully trained a school choir to earn 3 gold medals in a CHamoru language competition. Further, he is a trailblazing force that has created curricula for Cultural Arts and Dance for all secondary grade levels, introduced a new method to simultaneously teach cultural dance to both face-to-face and online learners amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and developed a new CHamoru language program with support from local government agencies. Most impressive, however, is his personal undertaking to establish deeper understanding and awareness of cultural concepts as an inherent part of Guam's public education.

On behalf of the People of Guam, I would like to extend a sincere congratulations to Dr. Benjamin Santiago. His combined approach to advocate for both students and culture both challenges the traditional definitions of learning and success within the four walls of a classroom and better equips our youth to pursue any endeavor they dare to dream. Dr. Santiago's perseverance, ingenuity, and zeal to secure the best for our students encapsulates the limitless potential available to communities that work together in service of each other, and I wish him the best on the rest of his professional journey.

VICTORIA BEAGLE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Victoria Beagle for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Victoria Beagle is a student at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Victoria Beagle is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Victoria Beagle for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING DEVIN WILCOX AND HIS SERVICE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service and accomplishments of Devin Wilcox, my outstanding legislative assistant who's transitioning from my office to pursue a new opportunity. Devin joined my staff in 2019, after working in the private sector as a policy analyst. Since then, Devin has blossomed into an extraordinary policy wonk and leader.

Devin has been instrumental in my work to demonstrably change the lives of Black men and boys and improve our nation's infrastructure. Devin's legislative and political acumen were instrumental in building support for my recently enacted Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys Act. Devin also worked closely with transportation stakeholders on my priorities that were included in the Infrastructure Jobs and Investment Act.

Additionally, Devin has created pipelines for diverse students to access coveted internship, fellowship, and employment opportunities on Capitol Hill. Understandably, he has earned the respect of his colleagues and stakeholders alike.

Devin was born and raised in Florida City, Florida. He's a product of the Miami-Dade County Public School system and earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Florida International University in 2014.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Devin Wilcox for his extraordinary accomplishments, commitment to public service, and for being a trailblazer.

HONORING CHIEF BRAD KELLER,
MONTEBELLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Chief Brad Keller, a dedicated public servant for the city of Montebello. Chief Keller is retiring after 31 years of service to his community and the Montebello Police Department.

Chief Keller began his law enforcement career with the Montebello Police Department in 1991, after graduating from Rio Hondo College Police Academy.

Throughout his career, Chief Keller's work in the community was recognized through multiple promotions, until eventually becoming Montebello's 10th Police Chief in 2018. Through his advanced leadership and peace officer training, Chief Keller recognized that protecting a community also requires an increased understanding of the diversity of the community.

While Chief Keller always sought to protect and serve his community, he took care to do so while maintaining a relationship of trust and respect with the citizens of Montebello.

Notably, Chief Keller was awarded the Medal of Courage and the Medal of Merit in 2000 and the Medal of Lifesaving in 2003.

Chief Keller dedicated his life to serving Montebello, and he leaves behind a legacy that will inspire current and future public servants.

CELEBRATING THE IZAAK WALTON
LEAGUE OF AMERICA'S 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with immense pleasure that I rise today to recognize the Izaak Walton League of America on the organization's 100th Anniversary and to congratulate its members on their many accomplishments. In honor of the League's anniversary, I would like to commemorate its legacy of environmental advocacy.

The Izaak Walton League of America was formally incorporated on January 14, 1922, by fifty-four ambitious men with the goal of conserving our nation's natural resources. At the time, after recognizing the deterioration of our wildlife habitats, they took immediate action to ensure their enjoyment, benefit, and use for generations to come. Today, the League consists of 42,000 members and more than 200 community-based chapters, each committed to continuing the legacy and furthering the accomplishments of their predecessors. The League's members have worked hard to protect our nation's soil, air, wood, waters, and wildlife, and not only have they met their goal, they have exceeded it.

The League is responsible for the passage of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act, which was signed into law in 1937. This has provided billions of dollars in funding to

wildlife restoration, habitat conservation, and hunter education. The League's proposal and advocacy for a federal agency to combat water pollution across the country led to the landmark Clean Water Act of 1972 which set federal standards for our nation's waters. Furthermore, the League's advocacy on behalf of Indiana Dunes National Park has provided Hoosiers in Northwest Indiana continued enjoyment and enrichment of our lakeshore. We must also commend the Izaak Walton League for its role in the creation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, Superior National Forest, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, and the Everglades and Isle Royale National Parks.

Many positive changes involving policies, legislation, and efforts to protect the environment have resulted because of the League's dedication to its communities. The League's members, known as "Ikes," give their time to help build nature trails, restore stream banks, plant trees and rain gardens, keep family farms in business, and prevent the spread of invasive species. Keeping in mind how important it is to invest in the future, the League created a scholarship fund that awards \$125,000 annually to students who are seeking their degrees in fields related to conservation and natural resources. When it comes to protecting our water sources, defending public lands, establishing farm and energy policy, protecting fish and wildlife, and conservation, the Izaak Walton League's members have proven that with diligence, teamwork, and an appreciation for nature, everyday citizens can have a major impact on the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating the Izaak Walton League of America on its 100th Anniversary. Through the years, the League's members have dedicated their time and efforts to ensure the conservation of our natural resources, and for this, they are to be recognized and commended.

JACKSON WALLACE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jackson Wallace for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jackson Wallace is a student at Three Creeks K-8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jackson Wallace is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jackson Wallace for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER
AND SERVICE OF RETIRING UNI-
VERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM
PRESIDENT TOMMY THOMPSON

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of the career and service of retiring University of Wisconsin System President, Tommy Thompson.

Throughout Mr. Thompson's long and esteemed career, he has been admired by his peers for his incredible dedication to public service. From being born and raised in Elroy, Wisconsin, to enlisting in the United States Army National Guard, to becoming the longest-serving governor in Wisconsin history, Mr. Thompson's commitment to the State of Wisconsin and our Nation never wavered. I commend Mr. Thompson's service and thank him for the enormous contributions that he has made to the State of Wisconsin and to the United States.

Mr. Thompson's successful tenure as governor was spearheaded by major initiatives like the nation's first school-choice program that Wisconsinites continue to benefit from today. His push for the parental school-choice program created unparalleled educational opportunities for students and witnessed record participation. Governor Thompson led the way on education, healthcare, and welfare reform setting the stage for decades of prosperity in Wisconsin. Given the success of his governorship, Mr. Thompson was appointed by then President George W. Bush to serve as the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary from 2001 to 2005. During his time as HHS Secretary, Mr. Thompson played a key role in projects and initiatives that resulted in greater transparency and efficiency throughout the agency.

During his almost 60-year career, Mr. Thompson has proven himself to be one of the most successful public servants in Wisconsin history. In 2019, Mr. Thompson yet again answered the call to service as he was named President of the University of Wisconsin System. Under his leadership, the UW System prioritized developing, attracting, and retaining students and educators that will benefit from the world-class education that the UW system has to offer. As President, Mr. Thompson also helped the UW System navigate the incredible challenges of a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic. The State of Wisconsin is grateful for Mr. Thompson's lifetime of service and dedication to our great state.

As we look back on Mr. Thompson's career, there is no doubt that he has dedicated his life to making the world around him a better place. Mr. Thompson's continued service to both the State of Wisconsin and the United States is worthy of our highest degree of recognition. I urge all of my colleagues in this body to join me in congratulating Mr. Thompson on another successful tenure in public service and on his retirement from the UW System. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING WALTER DELANEY, JR.

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Walter Delaney, Jr., who died on February 14, 2022, at the age of 81. Mr. Delaney dedicated his life to public service as a law enforcement officer who honorably fulfilled his professional duties.

Mr. Delaney was born on March 15, 1940, to the late Walter L. Delaney, Sr., and Rebecca Minor Delaney. Mr. Delaney attended Roanoke City Public Schools. From a young age, he always led with a heart of service. He volunteered with the Huntington Life Saving Crew, and this inspired him to become a Roanoke County Deputy Sheriff. So, he left his job at the Eaton Corp. in Salem to serve his community.

He worked as a patrolman, an investigator, and in the courts. Mr. Delaney became the first Black deputy for the Roanoke County Sheriff's Office. As a practicing attorney in the Roanoke Valley, I worked with Mr. Delaney for many years. He was always professional and courteous. He never drew attention to the fact that he was the first black deputy. In a time when the country was going through desegregation, Mr. Delaney was a trailblazer in his community. In every role he held, he constantly worked hard and selflessly served those around him.

In addition to serving in law enforcement, Mr. Delaney was also an active member of the Sweet Union Baptist Church and deeply valued his faith.

Mr. Delaney was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Susie M. Larry Delaney; his son, Ricky H. Delaney, his sister, Loreli Cherrylene Delaney; his brother Xavier Jacques Delaney; and his brothers-in-law: Rodney Buford Larry and Phillip Larry.

He is survived by his children Gary Hancock, Robbie Delaney Majors and Anthony Delaney, Sr.; siblings, Yvonne Delaney Oliver, William Delaney, Essie J. Manns, Johnny Delaney; grandchildren, Gary Kasey, Antonio Taylor, William "Tre" Majors, Anthony Delaney, Jr., Jarek Hancock, Naya Delaney, and Dallas Delaney; great grandchildren, Jamauri Majors, Jaylen Majors, TreMaine Bond, Jin Lee Taylor; and many other beloved family and friends. I offer them my condolences on the loss of this good man.

HONORING CARMEL ANGELO

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the significant career and accomplishments of Ms. Carmel Angelo on the occasion of her retirement from the County of Mendocino as Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Ms. Angelo was hired to be the director of Health and Human Services and Assistant CEO for Mendocino County in 2007. Just three years later, she was appointed to serve as County CEO by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors in 2010, becoming the

first woman to hold the County's top executive position.

Throughout her 15-year tenure, Ms. Angelo was a strong advocate for Mendocino County, and she was well-respected for her ability to address the unique challenges facing rural counties. As CEO, she led the County through a fiscal crisis and provided effective leadership during multiple fire and flood disasters. Drawing on her experience in health and human services, she navigated the public health response to the global pandemic of COVID-19 with skill.

Ms. Angelo's advocacy for rural counties extended beyond Mendocino County through her leadership work with multiple statewide associations. She served on the California Association of County Executives (CACE) as a member and president, earning the 2021 President's CACE Award. In addition, her efforts with the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) resulted in the 2018 RCRC President's Award, and her work with California State Association of Counties (CSAC) was honored with its 2019 CSAC Circle of Service Award.

Madam Speaker, Carmel Angelo's career is a sterling example of service and dedication to improving the effectiveness of local government and meeting the needs of rural communities. Please join me in honoring Carmel Angelo on the occasion of her retirement, and in wishing her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

TAYLER BARKER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Tayler Barker for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Tayler Barker is a student at Warren Tech North and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Tayler Barker is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Tayler Barker for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
JOHN CHENEY'S 90TH BIRTHDAY**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John Cheney, an outstanding citizen from North Baltimore, Ohio, who will celebrate his 90th birthday on March 20, 2022.

John has been a leader in the community through a lifetime of service, and his family and friends are very grateful to have the opportunity to celebrate this significant birthday with him: Reaching this momentous milestone provides the opportunity to recognize John's many accomplishments in life, but especially his service to our country and community.

John served on active duty as a field artillery officer in the U.S. Army after graduation from Bowling Green State University in 1954. He served on active duty until 1957 and continued in the U.S. Army Reserves, completing twenty-eight years of military service as a Lieutenant Colonel. He has remained active in a number of military organizations and is well known for his large collection of military vehicles, which he takes to events throughout Northwest Ohio and the rest of the country. He chaired the Findlay-Hancock County Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee when it established the county's Armed Forces Day Celebration. Today, Armed Forces Day in Findlay is one of the largest annual military events in Ohio. He is a member of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association, and his vehicle collection has helped to preserve and promote our military heritage. John is a charter member of the Ohio Motor Pool and participated in the 2009 Transcontinental Military Convoy. He is also a pilot and a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association. Notably, he built a trophy-winning open cockpit biplane, which he flew for many years.

John married his wife, Elaine, on July 19, 1952, and they had three children: Caprice, Mark, and John. After completing his active-duty military service, John worked at Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative for 41 years while raising his family, retiring as president and CEO in 1996. He is known throughout the area for his public service and has continued to be active in many organizations in his community and Northwest Ohio. Most notably, he is a founding trustee and served as chairman of Northwestern Water and Sewer District Board of Trustees. He continues to serve on that board. He also served for 13 years as a board member of Buckeye Power, which provides electric energy to 25 member cooperatives in Ohio.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating John Cheney's 90th birthday. John is most worthy of this recognition, and I thank him for a distinguished career serving our country and community. On behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio, I wish John a very happy birthday and his family all the best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL JOHNSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during this vote, but had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 70.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF M.E. "GENE" WALDROP ON 50 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Chief M.E. "Gene" Waldrop on 50 years of service in law enforcement. He has enjoyed a distinguished career, and we are grateful for his dedicated service to defend the safety of our great state for more than half a century.

As a native of Greenville, Mississippi, Chief Waldrop graduated from Greenville High School and later served as Staff Sergeant in the Mississippi National Guard. After being honorably discharged, Waldrop began his law enforcement career as a patrol officer. Chief Waldrop served 20 years for the Greenville Mississippi Police Department and retired in 1991 as Chief of Police. With Chief Waldrop's oversight and encouragement, the City of Greenville coordinated with local agencies to develop efficient disaster response plans that heightened the region's security.

After retiring, Chief Waldrop was appointed as Chief of Police in the City of Madison, Mississippi, holding to his commitment to public service. In this role, he continued his steadfast dedication to keeping the great state of Mississippi safe by establishing advanced emergency response plans. Under his courageous leadership, the City of Madison has been rated the Safest City in Mississippi by several crime prevention organizations.

Chief Waldrop is also a dedicated community servant. He helped to establish the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Firefighters' Memorial Burn Center Association. There, he served as the Vice-President of the Board of Directors, one of his many achievements that earned Chief Waldrop the Jim Ingram Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.

I commend all that Chief Waldrop has done to valiantly protect the lives of Mississippians, and I thank him for his contributions towards bettering our state's law enforcement. I extend my very best wishes to him and look forward to working with him in the future to make our state an even better place to live, worship, and raise a family.

ADDISON KEGERREIS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Addison Kegerreis for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Addison Kegerreis is a student at Wayne Carle MS and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Addison Kegerreis is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their edu-

cation and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Addison Kegerreis for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING BRIGADIER GENERAL RODERICK R. LEON GUERRERO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true public servant, Brigadier General Roderick R. Leon Guerrero and congratulate him on his retirement from the Guam Army National Guard (GUARNG) after 34 years of service to our island and nation.

Launching his military career in 1985, Brigadier General Leon Guerrero enlisted as a Private First Class. Determined to advance both his education and position in the ranks, he then entered the Army ROTC program at the University of Guam and was commissioned as a second lieutenant three years later. After earning his bachelor's degree in Political Science, he sought continued growth in knowledge and experience—paving a path from Combat Medic to Specialist, Cadet, and onto numerous assignments as a commissioned officer. His lasting contributions were catalyzed through his roles as an Intelligence Officer, Executive Officer for a Headquarters Company, Military Police Company Commander, Personnel Officer, Assistant Professor of Military Science, Recruiting and Retention Manager, Deputy G3 Officer, Plans, Operations, and Military Support Officer, Civil Support Team Commander, J3 Officer, and J1 Officer. Moreover, he maintains an impressive military education bolstered by a Security Managers Course at the National Defense Institution, Military Police Officer Basic Course, Adjutant General Officers Advanced Course, Combined Arms Staff Service Course, Command and General Staff Course, and Embedded Military Transition Training Course in addition to numerous other trainings and the completion of programs hosted by Harvard University and the Army Strategic Education.

After earning his master's in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College, Brigadier General Leon Guerrero emerged as a pillar of leadership for our community with unwavering resolution. In addition to supporting Operation Enduring Freedom as part of the first Embedded Training Team from the GUARNG to Afghanistan, he embodied excellence in service as Chief of Joint Staff for the Guam National Guard (GUNG). As a Director of Military Affairs and Personnel, he further utilized his extensive experience, valuable specialties, and incomparable integrity to develop our National Guard into a world-class organization. By 2015, he was selected to serve as the Adjutant General of the GUNG, where he advised the Governor of Guam on military affairs. In this capacity, he was also responsible for ensuring more than 1,500 Guardsmen were ac-

cessible, capable, and ready to deploy on island in response to emergencies and provide combat ready servicemembers to the U.S. Army and Air Force.

With a long list of recognitions that include a Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service, Army Commendation, Army, Airforce, and Army Reserve Components Achievement, and Afghanistan Campaign Medals, National Defense, Global War on Terrorism, and Humanitarian Service Medals, Army Service, Overseas Service, and NATO Ribbons, and Combat Action and Parachutist Badges, Brigadier General Leon Guerrero's countless decorations only illustrate a glimpse of his outstanding character and selflessness. His induction into the prestigious Cadet Command Hall of Fame in Fort Knox, Kentucky further demonstrates his distinguished background in both military and civilian pursuits and manifold contributions to the nation, the Army, and the history and traditions of the Army ROTC program.

Throughout his career, Brigadier General Roderick R. Leon Guerrero has never failed to lead by example. Strengthened by his wife, Mary, his sons Jared and Broderick, and his daughter Crystal, he cultivated a fine career rooted in collaboration, problem solving, and results. He served with an astounding commitment to self, others, nation, and the American Dream, and continues to inspire many members of our community with his legacy of integrity and respect for others in all endeavors. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of the People of Guam, offering my greatest appreciation for Brigadier General Leon Guerrero's commitment to our country. I sincerely thank him for his many years of service and sacrifice, congratulate him on his well-earned retirement, and wish him the best during the next chapter of his life.

IN HONOR OF PETE J. STILIANESSIS

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pete J. Stilianessis in celebration of his decades of work as a father, police officer and leader in the law enforcement community. I am proud to have such a committed and hardworking individual here in the great State of New Jersey. A native son of Passaic County, Pete Stilianessis dedicated his life to the safety and security of our neighborhood. I wish him well as he retires from the New Jersey State Troopers Non-Commissioned Officers Association.

Born in Paterson, New Jersey to Jerry and Maryellen Stilianessis, Pete's story is one that begins with a love for public service. The son of a former marine, his mother's active duty in the United States Marine Corps would motivate Pete to do the same. Traveling the world as a machine gunner, Pete displayed his action-oriented personality. Most notably, he would answer the call to serve in the Gulf War and contribute his efforts in Iraq. A "Task Force Ripper" during Operation Desert Storm, Pete served as squad leader during ground combat operations liberating Kuwait City on February 27, 1991. Awarded the Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Kuwait Liberation Medal and two

Bronze Stars, Pete is a decorated veteran and a man worth our respect and admiration.

Following his career in the military, Pete would enter law enforcement. First a Corrections Officer with the Passaic County Sheriff's Department, then a police officer with several municipalities, Pete would eventually decide that his greatest aspiration was to serve as a New Jersey State Trooper. Graduating from the New Jersey State Police Academy in 1993, Pete would formally begin his storied career as a State Trooper.

Starting as a "Road Trooper", Pete would quickly ascend the ranks to reach Detective. Assigned to work on the Counter Terrorism Unit, FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force and Drug Enforcement Administration, Pete carried out intricate and high level international and domestic investigations. Working both as an undercover agent and lead investigator, Pete worked in Central and South America in addition to operations here in the United States.

As the President of the New Jersey State Troopers Non-Commissioned Officers Association, Pete advocated for his brothers and sisters in uniform. Embodying the principal of service over self, Pete traveled both to our State Capital of Trenton and Washington, D.C. to fight for improved benefits and funding. I know, he will be missed by so many as he retires from law enforcement. As he transitions into this new phase of life, I thank him for all his hard work.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of individuals like Mr. Pete J. Stilianessis.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, friends, family, and the residents of New Jersey in recognizing Pete J. Stilianessis, as we celebrate his years of distinguished service to the people of the Ninth Congressional District.

REBECCA McNEIL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rebecca McNeil for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Rebecca McNeil is a student at Wayne Carle Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Rebecca McNeil is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Rebecca McNeil for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
LEGACY OF DR. FATIMA ZAFAR

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Dr. Fatima Zafar, a beloved, wife, mother, physician, and medical leader in Miami-Dade County.

Whereas, Fatima Zafar, MD was born on October 20, 1941, in Hyderabad, India, the first of six children. She was inspired by her father as she watched him, a middle-class contractor working for the government, tirelessly helping those in need, including buying food with his own money to feed the poor, and always encouraging his children to help others. Fatima's upbringing also included accompanying missionaries to the countryside to administer smallpox vaccines. She witnessed women seeking medical help from nuns at a time when they were prohibited from seeing male doctors. These experiences intrigued Fatima. Her fascination with the process of healing contributed to the seeds of compassion and doing for others sown into her life; and

Whereas, Fatima was very athletic and very active in high school sports. With her father's encouragement, she turned that focus to science and medical classes, and was subsequently accepted at the Osmania University Medical School. Upon graduation she completed her residency in Obstetrics/Gynecology, at the Muslim Maternity and General Hospital where she was in charge for three years; and Whereas, Fatima and Ferrukh met and were later married, had two daughters, and journeyed to Miami, Florida where Fatima completed a residency in Psychiatry at Jackson Memorial Hospital and became a Diplomat of the American Board of Family Practice; and

Whereas, in 1980 Fatima was hired as Chief Medical Officer for the Economic Opportunity Family Health Center, Inc. (EOFHC), at a time when EOFHC was located in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Miami-Dade County and was just a collection of trailers. The medical leadership which she provided over 28 years has been unparalleled including distinctions such as, but not limited to, leading her medical team in providing care for one of the first HIV/AIDS cases in Miami-Dade; building the first brick and mortar site for the Center; expanding the accessibility and convenience of high quality care provided by EOFHC by opening six primary care sites; establishing the Jefferson Reaves House as one of the first substance abuse treatment programs for women and their children; establishing programs for effective management of chronic illnesses; establishing a fund through the Jessie Trice Community Health Foundation to supplement the costs of pharmaceuticals for patients unable to pay. For the following twelve years she focused on family medical services and specialty services in the health system; and

Whereas, Fatima relocated in 2020 to New Jersey to be near family after the passing of her husband. Even after relocating to New Jersey, up until one week before her own passing on July 4, 2021, she continued her commitment to touch and to heal, and to provide the highest quality of care to the most

vulnerable patients served by EOFHC, by providing telehealth services for ongoing management of chronic illnesses and also providing psychiatric consultation; and

Whereas, Fatima leaves behind her two daughters, peers, mentors, staff and thousands of patients who were all inspired by her life and legacy of healing, giving, and love for all mankind, including the least of these; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, FREDERICA S. WILSON, a member of the United States House of Representatives representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, am honored to recognize the naming of the main site of the Jessie Trice Community Health System, Inc. for the late Dr. Fatima Zafar, and to recognize her for her commitment, dedication, and the outstanding medical leadership that she has provided to our community.

HONORING I. RAY BYRD

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of I. Ray Byrd, who passed away on January 30, 2022. Mr. Byrd was a businessman and community leader in Salem, Virginia.

Mr. Byrd was born on September 1, 1928, in Martinsville, Virginia to Daniel Edward and Virgie Holt Byrd. He attended Randolph Macon College and finished his education at the Medical College of Virginia with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy. He later went on to spend two years as a United States Marine and attained the rank of Captain.

He and his wife, Nina, moved to Salem, Virginia in 1954. This is where he and his dear friend, Ervin Pollard Brooks, founded Brooks-Byrd Pharmacy. Brooks-Byrd Pharmacy became an iconic Salem location and is still open today. Further, the pharmacy's patrons benefited from the kindness of Mr. Byrd. In a throwback to an earlier age, it allowed their regular customers to carry accounts forward. This was very helpful to many struggling families throughout the years—including single-parent households such as mine when I was a kid. The community will be forever indebted to Mr. Byrd and Mr. Brooks for their dedicated, selfless service.

Throughout his pharmaceutical career, Mr. Byrd also served as a pharmacist at the Bradley Free Clinic, Richfield Pharmacy, and the VA Hospital. He was also a member of the Roanoke Valley Pharmaceutical and the Virginia Pharmaceutical Associations.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Mr. Byrd devotedly volunteered and worked to improve his community. He served in the Salem Kiwanis Club, Salem Chamber of Commerce, Salem Museum, Salem Sports Foundation, and the Salem Industrial Authority. For five years he served as the chairman of the City of Salem School Board. Mr. Byrd especially valued faith and family. He was an active member and trustee of the Salem Baptist Church.

Mr. Byrd's survivors include his wife, Nina Byrd; his children, Dr. Carol Byrd and her husband, I. Ray Byrd, Jr. and his wife, Mary Catherine Rusk, and Laura Byrd Earle and her husband; his grandchildren, Bradley Barr, Dr. Ann Cameron Barr and her husband, Dr. Andrew Barr and his wife, Nicholas Byrd and his

wife, Alison Byrd Walker and her husband, Caroline Byrd Hefflin and her husband, Matthew Ruskan, Catherine Ruskan, Nina Earle, Samuel Earle, and Hank Earle; and great-grandchildren Alicia Byrd, Cecilia Byrd, Smith Barr, Ellis Barr, and Sophia Walker. I offer them my condolences on their loss.

DREW KELLOGG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Drew Kellogg for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Drew Kellogg is a student at Wayne Carle Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Drew Kellogg is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Drew Kellogg for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM J. WALKER SERGEANT AT ARMS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General William J. Walker, the 38th House Sergeant at Arms and the first Black person to serve as the chamber's top security official.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Walker holds degrees from the University of Illinois at Chicago (BA), Chicago State University (MS), National Intelligence University (MS), and American University (MA). He completed the National and International Security Program at Harvard University, the National Security Studies Program at George Washington University, the Seminar XXI Foreign Politics, International Relations, and the National Interest Fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He has been awarded nearly two dozen medals and badges for his 39 years of military service. He was appointed as a senior intel-

ligence officer in 2009, holding final post as deputy assistant administrator for Strategic Warning at DEA headquarters.

Walker served as vice chair on the board of directors of the Young Marines, a military affiliated non-profit organization that serves more than 10,000 boys and girls. He also is a member of several community organizations including Alpha Phi Alpha and Sigma Pi Phi fraternities.

As the 23rd commanding general of the District of Columbia National Guard, Walker led deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantánamo Bay, Poland and Saudi Arabia. He has overseen the 113th Wing, served at the Pentagon, and as chair of the National Guard Bureau's Joint Diversity Executive Council.

Walker played a central role in restoring control following the Capitol siege on January 6. His expertise will go a long way toward restoring our faith in safety we once took for granted. Further, he is committed to empowering males of color to achieve their dreams. He is newly inducted into the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project and was bestowed the Breaking the Glass Ceiling Award.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Major General William J. Walker for his decades of public service and for answering your call to "bring his steady and patriotic leadership" to this critical new role.

HONORING JORGE DAVID ALVARADO, JR.

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the loss and the service of Salinas Police Officer Jorge David Alvarado, Jr. Officer Alvarado was fatally shot in the line of duty while conducting a traffic stop on Friday, February 25, 2022.

Born in the City and County of San Francisco, Jorge Davis Alvarado, Jr. understood what it meant to give back to his community and to his country. After graduating from the Voice of the Pentecost Academy High School, he enlisted in the United States Army as an Infantryman. He earned the prestigious Combat Infantry Badge for his gallantry during combat operations in Afghanistan and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and assigned as a Team Leader.

After completing his tour of duty, Officer Alvarado served the community of Colma on the San Francisco Peninsula for four and half years. He then joined the Salinas Police Department, and after completing his required training, was assigned as a patrol officer.

Officer Alvarado displayed true bravery and duty to his community, staying in the fight to the end and paying the ultimate price. Officer Alvarado's passing marks the first city police

officer lost in the line of duty in Salinas in nearly 80 years. Officer Alvarado is survived by his high school sweetheart and fiancée, Veronica, his mother and father, his three brothers, and his nieces and nephews.

As we look back upon his commitment and actions as we mourn his loss, let us also look to Officer Alvarado's legacy of service as a way forward. We must realize that our communities rely on the men and women in uniform for order, for safety, and for our upward mobility. Officer Alvarado did that by not only protecting and serving Salinas, but he got up every day and left his home knowing that his job was to run to the danger and not away from it.

Madam Speaker, Officer Jorge Alvarado ran to the danger on February 25th. Let us make sure that his service and his sacrifice are not in vain. Together, we must support his family and support the men and women in uniform who serve and protect. It is because of their service that we make it home to our families every night and thrive in safe communities.

OCTOBER MAXWELL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud October Maxwell for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

October Maxwell is a student at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by October Maxwell is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to October Maxwell for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIE NEWMAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Ms. NEWMAN. Madam Speaker, due to an error, my vote was not recorded. Please accept this form detailing my vote: YEA on Roll Call No. 65.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1157–S1191

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3836–3845, and S. Res. 546–547. **Pages S1177–78**

Measures Reported:

S. 648, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make a technical correction to the water rights settlement for Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 117–93)

S. 2614, to provide for the modernization of electronic case management systems, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S1177**

Measures Passed:

Sunshine Protection Act: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. 623, to make daylight saving time permanent, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S1165–67**

Rubio Amendment No. 5000, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S1165**

Requirement for Persons To Wear Masks While on Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 37, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention relating to “Requirement for Persons To Wear Masks While on Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs”, and the joint resolution was then passed in a roll call vote of 57 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. 81). **Pages S1171–75**

Sense of the Senate Condemning the Russian Federation: Senate agreed to S. Res. 546, expressing the sense of the Senate condemning the Russian Fed-

eration, President Vladimir Putin, members of the Russian Security Council, the Russian Armed Forces, and Russian military commanders for committing atrocities, including alleged war crimes, against the people of Ukraine and others. **Pages S1185–86**

Appointments:

Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States: The Chair, on behalf of the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 117–81, appointed the following individuals to serve as members of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States: Jon Kyl of Arizona and Lisa Gordon-Hagerty of Florida. **Page S1186**

Grundmann Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Susan Tsui Grundmann, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, be withdrawn. **Page S1165**

Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, at 11:45 a.m., on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Jacqueline Scott Corley, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, and Fred W. Slaughter, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California; provided further that at 3 p.m., Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Ruth Bermudez Montenegro, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, and Victoria Marie Calvert, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia; that if cloture is invoked on any of these nominations, Senate vote on confirmation thereon at a time to be determined by

the Majority Leader, or designee, following consultation with the Republican Leader; and that the remaining motions to invoke cloture ripen at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, or designee, following consultation with the Republican Leader.

Page S1186

Corley Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Jacqueline Scott Corley, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

Page S1186

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 61 yeas to 36 nays (Vote No. EX. 80), Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Pages S1157–65, S1167–71

Kinan Azmeh, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2024.

Constance Hess Williams, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2026.

Christopher Kauai Morgan, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2024.

Jake Shimabukuro, of Hawaii, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2024.

Rachel Jacobson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

Beth Van Schaack, of California, to be Ambassador at Large for Global Criminal Justice.

Kathryn Kahrs Matthew, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2026.

Page S1186

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Rheanne Wirkkala, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Brendan Owens, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Susie Feliz, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

Rebecca F. Dye, of North Carolina, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2025.

Carmen G. Cantor, of Puerto Rico, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Janet Keller, of California, to be a Member of the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy for a term expiring July 1, 2023.

Shefali Razdan Duggal, of California, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

23 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Pages S1190–91

Executive Communications:

Page S1177

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S1178–79

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S1179–81

Additional Statements:

Amendments Submitted:

Pages S1181–82

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Page S1182

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—81)

Pages S1171, S1175

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:54 p.m., until 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2022. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1186.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

U.S. CENTRAL AND AFRICA COMMANDS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded open and closed hearings to examine the posture of United States Central Command and United States Africa Command, after receiving testimony from General Kenneth F. McKenzie, Jr., USMC, Commander, United States Central Command, and General Stephen J. Townsend, USA, Commander, United States Africa Command, both of the Department of Defense.

ADVANCING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine advancing public transportation under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, after receiving testimony from Joanna M. Pinkerton, Central Ohio Transit Authority, Columbus; Collie Greenwood, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, Atlanta, Georgia; Greg Regan, Transportation Trades Department, Washington, D.C.; Dorothy Moses Schulz, Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, New York, New York; and Randal O'Toole, Thoreau Institute, Concord, Massachusetts.

INDO-PACIFIC REGION TRADE

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the promise and challenge of strategic trade engagement in the Indo-Pacific region, after receiving testimony from Sharon Bomer Lauritsen,

AgTrade Strategies LLC, Emma Llanso, Center for Democracy and Technology, Kelly Ann Shaw, Hogan Lovells US LLP, and Michael Wessel, The Wessel Group, all of Washington, D.C.

COMBATTING AUTHORITARIANISM

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine combatting authoritarianism, focusing on United States tools and responses, after receiving testimony from Uzra Zeya, Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, and Jennifer Hall Godfrey, Senior Official for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, both of the Department of State; and Anne Applebaum, Johns Hopkins University, and Daniel Twining, International Republican Institute, both of Washington, D.C.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Bernadette M. Meehan, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chile, John N. Nkengasong, of Georgia, to be Ambassador at Large, Coordinator of United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally, and Rebecca Eliza Gonzales, of Texas, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with rank of Ambassador, all of the Department of State, Monde Muyangwa, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

REFORMING RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine re-

forming Federal and Presidential records management, after receiving testimony from Jason R. Baron, University of Maryland College of Information Studies, and Anne L. Weismann, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, both of Bethesda, Maryland; and Jonathan Turley, The George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 3799, to prepare for, and respond to, existing viruses, emerging new threats, and pandemics, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

REMOVING BARRIERS TO LEGAL MIGRATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety concluded a hearing to examine removing barriers to legal migration to strengthen our communities and economy, after receiving testimony from Athulya Rajakumar, Improve The Dream, Dallas, Texas; Stephen H. Legomsky, Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, Missouri; and Lynden D. Melmed, Berry Appleman and Leiden LLP, 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: 23 public bills, H.R. 7072–7094; and 6 resolutions, H. Res. 980–985, were introduced. **Pages H3742–43**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3744–46**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1931, to provide competitive grants for the promotion of Japanese American confinement education as a means to understand the importance of democratic principles, use and abuse of power, and to raise awareness about the importance of cultural

tolerance toward Japanese Americans, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–271);

H.R. 3113, to require the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–272, Part 1); and

H. Res. 979, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 963) to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration, and providing for

consideration of the bill (H.R. 2116) to prohibit discrimination based on an individual's texture or style of hair (H. Rept. 117–273). **Page H3742**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Sewell to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3715**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:36 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H3719**

Advisory Board for the House of Representatives Child Care Center—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following additional individuals and Member to the Advisory Board for the House of Representatives Child Care Center: Ms. Brooke Scannell of Arlington, Virginia; Ms. Stacey Leavandosky of Washington, D.C.; Mr. Collin Davenport of Alexandria, Virginia; Ms. Lora Snyder of Washington, D.C.; Mr. Matthew Dwyer of Alexandria, Virginia; Ms. Natalie Joyce of Arlington, Virginia; Mr. Cyrus Artz of Washington, D.C.; Ms. Alyene Mlinar of Washington, D.C.; Ms. Cari Fike of Cheverly, Maryland; Mr. Robbie Minnich of Arlington, Virginia; Ms. Jennifer Belair of Washington, D.C.; and Representative Hudson. **Page H3720**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:06 p.m. and reconvened at 2:33 p.m. **Page H3720**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park: H.R. 268, amended, to provide for the boundary of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park to be adjusted, to authorize the donation of land to the United States for addition to that historic park; **Pages H3720–22**

Ka'ena Point National Heritage Area Act: H.R. 1908, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Ka'ena Point National Heritage Area; **Pages H3722–23**

Japanese American Confinement Education Act: H.R. 1931, amended, to provide competitive grants for the promotion of Japanese American confinement education as a means to understand the importance of democratic principles, use and abuse of power, and to raise awareness about the importance of cultural tolerance toward Japanese Americans; **Pages H3723–25**

Directing the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating areas within the island of Guam as a National Heritage Area: H.R. 2899, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating areas

within the island of Guam as a National Heritage Area; **Pages H3725–26**

Modernizing Access to our Public Land Act: H.R. 3113, amended, to require the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 414 yeas to 9 nays, Roll No. 71; and **Pages H3726–28, H3733–34**

Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins Recovery Act: H.R. 5001, amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to continue to implement endangered fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 397 yeas to 27 nays, Roll No. 72. **Pages H3731–32, H3734–35**

Recess: The House recessed at 3:51 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H3733**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Save the Liberty Theatre Act: H.R. 3197, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the City of Eunice, Louisiana, certain Federal land in Louisiana; **Pages H3728–29**

Designating the El Paso Community Healing Garden National Memorial: H.R. 4380, to designate the El Paso Community Healing Garden National Memorial; and **Pages H3729–31**

Japanese American World War II History Network Act: H.R. 6434, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish, within the National Park Service, the Japanese American World War II History Network. **Pages H3732–33**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3733–34 and H3734.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FAIR ACT OF 2022; CROWN ACT OF 2021

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 963, the "FAIR Act of 2022"; and H.R. 2116, the "CROWN Act of 2021". The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 963, the "FAIR Act of 2022", and H.R. 2116, the "CROWN Act of 2021". The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 963, the "FAIR Act of 2022", under a structured rule. The

rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–34 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order the amendment printed in the Rules Committee Report, if offered by the member designated in the report, which 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, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment printed in the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 2116, the “CROWN Act of 2021”, under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–36 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Representatives Johnson of Georgia and Bishop of North Carolina.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D258)

H.R. 3665, to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Diego, California, as the Jennifer Moreno Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and to support the designation of a component of such medical center in honor of Kathleen Bruyere. Signed on March 14, 2022. (Public Law 117–98)

S. 854, to designate methamphetamine as an emerging threat. Signed on March 14, 2022. (Public Law 117–99)

S. 1543, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide best practices on student suicide awareness and prevention training and condition State

educational agencies, local educational agencies, and tribal educational agencies receiving funds under section 520A of such Act to establish and implement a school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy. Signed on March 15, 2022. (Public Law 117–100)

S. 1662, to increase funding for the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration and for the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health. Signed on March 15, 2022. (Public Law 117–101)

S. 3706, to provide for the application of certain provisions of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 for fiscal year 2021. Signed on March 15, 2022. (Public Law 117–102)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold hearings to examine the health effects of exposure to airborne hazards, including toxic fumes from burn pits, 3 p.m., SR–232A.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund formula, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine prescription drug price inflation, focusing on the urgent need to lower drug prices in Medicare, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine violent extremism and terrorism, focusing on the threat to houses of worship and public spaces, 10:15 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to an oversight hearing to examine Federal support for Native business capacity building and success, 4 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine small business franchising, focusing on an overview of the industry, Small Business Administration's role, and legislative proposals, 2:30 p.m., SR–301.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, hearing entitled “A 2022 Review of the Farm Bill: The Role of USDA Programs in Addressing Climate Change”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth and Zoom.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing entitled “United States Central Command”, 10:30 a.m., H–140 Capitol. This hearing is closed.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled “Energy, Installations, and Environment Program Update”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on the Budget, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Ensuring Women Can Thrive in a Post-Pandemic Economy”, 11 a.m., 210 Cannon and Zoom.

Committee on Education and Labor, Full Committee, business meeting to approve new subcommittee assignments, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn and Zoom.

Full Committee, markup on H.R. 6102, the “Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2021”; H.R. 5129, the “Community Services Block Grant Modernization Act of 2021”; H.R. 2499, the “Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2021”; H.R. 5428, the “School Shooting Safety and Preparedness Act”; H.R. 3114, the “Longshore and Harbor Workers’ COVID-19 Compensation Act of 2021”, and H.R. 6087, the “Improving Access to Workers’ Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act”, 10:20 a.m., 2175 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “5G and Beyond: Exploring the Next Wireless Frontier”, 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment, hearing entitled “Early Signs of War Crimes and Human Rights Abuses Committed by the Russian Military During the Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Global Counterterrorism, hearing entitled “11 Years of War: The Humanitarian Impact of the Ongoing Conflict in Syria”, 3 p.m., Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 350, the “Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act of 2021”; H.R. 5460, the “Virgin Islands Visa Waiver Act of 2021”; and H.R. 301, to amend title 36, United States Code, to establish the composition known as “Lift Every Voice and Sing” as the national hymn of the United States, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1638, the “Gilt Edge Mine Conveyance Act”; H.R. 3587, the “RESPECT Act”; and H.R. 5093, the “Wind River Administrative Site Conveyance Act”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth and Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled “Fighting Fire with Fire: Evaluating the Role of Forest Management in Reducing Catastrophic Wildfires”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “Bioenergy Research and Development for the Fuels and Chemicals of Tomorrow”, 10:30 a.m., 2318 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations, hearing entitled

“An Empirical Review of the Paycheck Protection Program”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled “Proposals for a Water Resources Development Act of 2022: Members’ Day Hearing”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing on legislation on Permanent Authorization for Flexible Use of Funds for Homeless Veterans; legislation on Veteran Health Training Act; legislation on Permanent Authorization for Education Assistance Benefits During Emergency Situations; legislation on Vaccine Refusal and GI Bill Benefits; legislation on HU-ASH Flexibilities; legislation on VA Home Loan Transparency and Consumer Protection Act of 2022; legislation on Expand Eligibility for Self-employment Assistance under Veteran Readiness and Employment; legislation on Foreign School GI Bill Payment; legislation on Program Approval; legislation on Quality Education for Veterans Act of 2022; H.R. 6458, to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the requirement to specify an effective period of a transfer of Post-9/11 educational assistance to a dependent; and H.R. 6604, the “Veterans Eligible to Transfer Schools Credit Act”, 10 a.m., HVC-210 and Zoom.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing on H.R. 4993, the “Veterans Emergency Care Reimbursement Act of 2021”; H.R. 5738, the “Lactation Spaces for Veteran Moms Act”; H.R. 5754, the “Patient Advocate Tracker Act”; H.R. 5819, the “Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act”; H.R. 5941, the “Fairness for Rural Veterans Act of 2021”; H.R. 6647, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes; H.R. 6823, the Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act of 2022; and legislation on Long-term Care Veterans Choice Act, 2 p.m., CVC-210 and Zoom.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support, hearing entitled “Improving Family Outcomes through Home Visiting”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth and Webex.

Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Big Ideas for Small Businesses: Fostering American Entrepreneurship Through Starting, Sustaining and Growing Small Businesses”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn and Zoom.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine the impact of shareholder primacy, focusing on what it means to put stock prices first, 2:30 p.m., SD-106.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 16

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Jacqueline Scott Corley, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

At 11:45 a.m., Senate will vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Jacqueline Scott Corley, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, and Fred W. Slaughter, of California, to be a United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

At 3 p.m., Senate will vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Ruth Bermudez Montenegro, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, and Victoria Marie Calvert, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 16

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 963—FAIR Act (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of H.R. 2116—CROWN Act (Subject to a Rule).

Extension of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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