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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, May 27, 2022, at 9 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, our Father, we wait to serve You as You desire. May we do what is right and trust You completely.

Lord, make us alert to the needs of those lives You seek to touch, providing us with opportunities to transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. Examine and test us. Judge our desires and thoughts.

Today, use our lawmakers to bring relief to captives and deliverance to the oppressed. Give our Senators such faith that they will bless even those who are hard of heart.

May our legislators courageously work to lift those who are brought low by sorrow and empower those who are buffeted by grief.

We pray in Your precious 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, May 26, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. ROSEN 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

DOMESTIC TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2022—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 350, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to H.R. 350, a bill to authorize dedicated domestic terrorism offices within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to analyze and monitor domestic terrorist activity and require the Federal Government to take steps to prevent domestic terrorism.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

H.R. 350

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, today, the Senate will have a chance to act on a pernicious issue that has recently become an increasingly prevalent component in America's gun violence epidemic: the evil spread of White supremacy and domestic terrorism.

In the past 2 weeks, the United States has endured two of the most traumatic mass shootings that we have seen in recent history. In my home State of New York, in the beloved city of Buffalo, 10 Black Americans were gunned down in broad daylight by a White supremacist armed with an AR–15 and whose mind was poisoned by online conspiracies—White supremacist conspiracies.

And 2 days ago, 19 children—19 children: 8-year-olds, 9-year-olds, 10-year-olds, kids on the verge of beginning summer, kids with their entire lives ahead of them; we saw them holding up their trophies and proudly in their T-

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

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shirts, and a few hours later they were gone—slaughtered in the predominantly Latino town of Uvalde, TX. Two teachers, including a mother of four, were killed alongside them. Many more were injured and remain in critical condition.

It was the worst school shooting in America since Sandy Hook. Last night, I looked at the pictures of each of those kids online, and I wept—taken from us, taken from their families through senseless gun violence. I can't stop thinking about the parents, too, who lost their kids. I can't stop imagining the paralyzing horror of being one of the parents showing up to the school after the shooting, wondering where their kid was—the anxiety that will live with these parents forever—forced to wait hours before a DNA test—a DNA test—confirmed that their son or daughter was gone. I cannot imagine a hell—a hell—worse than that.

And these families, my colleagues, don't want thoughts and prayers. They want their elected leaders to respond to their suffering. They don't want to be lifted up. They don't want good intentions. They want something to change. They want results.

Yet the MAGA Republicans don't want to get results. They are ossified in their opposition to any action on gun safety. No matter the cause of violence and no matter the cost on families, nothing seems to move them.

Yesterday, after Beto O'Rourke confronted Texas Governor Abbott's press conference, the MAGA Governor gave some empty platitudes about healing and hope. He asked people to put their agendas aside and think about someone other than themselves.

My God, how dare he. What an absolute fraud the Governor of Texas is. And this is the same Governor Abbott who tomorrow—tomorrow—will go speak at the NRA convention in Houston.

Governor Abbott, will you ask your MAGA buddies and your NRA pals to put aside their agendas and think of someone other than themselves like you asked the families to do? Will you ask the gun manufacturing reps who swarm over the NRA convention to put aside their agendas and think about someone other than themselves? Of course not.

The Governor—Governor Abbott—is more likely to outline some new plans to further loosen gun restrictions. No amount of bloodshed seems to be enough for MAGA Republicans.

This Nation is enraged as well as being exhausted. It has been through this over and over and over again over the last two decades. People are sick of mourning again and again while listening to the same string of hollow words from the MAGA Republicans that never lead to action.

So in a few moments, the Senate will have a chance to vote on one important cause of gun violence. The legislation before the Senate today is the Domestic Terrorism Protection Act, which I scheduled for a vote earlier this week before what happened in Uvalde occurred. It was done to respond to the massacre in the supermarket in Buffalo.

The bill is so important because the mass shooting in Buffalo was an act of domestic terrorism. We need to call it what it is: domestic terrorism. It was terrorism that fed off the poison of conspiracy theories like ''White replacement theory''; terrorism that left 10 people dead, a community forever torn asunder. This bill will give the government the tools to monitor, find, and arrest these evil actors before they have a chance to inflict violence on their communities. I thank my colleague Senator DURBIN for championing this bill.

I have been going to bed every night thinking about the families I met in Buffalo in the aftermath of the shooting. I think about this little 3-year-old boy. He lost his dad who went to that Tops grocery store to buy him a birthday cake—a birthday cake for his son. That little boy is going to live with that the rest of his life—the rest of his life. I think about all the families impacted by other racially motivated shootings over the year. Buffalo, certainly, unfortunately, wasn't the first—Charleston, El Paso, Pittsburgh, Atlanta, and so many others; the shooting of Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, gay Americans, Jewish Americans, as well as Black Americans all because of this horrible ''White replacement theory.''

So today is the day we can begin to debate on how to make these shootings less likely. And there is an additional benefit to moving forward today. It is a chance to have a larger debate in considering amendments for gun safety legislation in general, not just for those motivated by racism, as vital as it is to do that.

I know that many Members on the other side hold views that are different than the views on this side of the aisle. So let us move on this bill. Let us proceed and then they can bring them to the floor.

Senator JOHNSON brought a bill to the floor yesterday about school security practices. I didn't agree with the bill, and I don't think it is the answer to mass shootings. We don't need more guns in the schools. There were security guards at the supermarket in Buffalo, police and security at the school in Uvalde, but we can debate it. The same with Senator CRUZ's plan to limit schools to only one door. Fire marshals and tactical experts totally and vehemently disagree. Let's debate it.

And there are other Senators with other proposals—proposals that come from our side of the aisle—background checks, red flag laws, the Charleston loophole, assault weapons, and other ideas.

Look, I know the chances of getting 10 votes on this bill are small, unfortunately, given the influence of MAGA Republicans. Many Republicans have made their opposition clear. Again, there are a lot of MAGA Republicans for whom no amount of gun violence—whether it is domestic terrorism, a school shooting, a neighborhood shooting, or something else—will ever—ever—convince them to take any action.

If Republicans obstruct debate today, we are prepared to have an honest and realistic discussion, conversation, negotiation for a little more time to see what they can come to the table with.

We are under no illusions that this will be easy. We have been burned in the past when Republicans promised to debate only for them to break their promise. But even with long odds, the issue is so important, so raw to the American people, so personal to countless families who are missing children, that we must pursue that opportunity. We also know that the American people—as many as 80 percent or 90 percent—support gun safety legislation.

We have an obligation to pursue every path and explore every realistic option to break the cycle of suffering and inaction. Not trying everything is not acceptable to the families who have lost their loved ones to our Nation's gun epidemic. To those beautiful children we see pictures of in the newspaper and their families, we have to try everything. We must not leave a single stone unturned.

Senator MURPHY, who has been such a strong and valiant leader within our caucus on gun safety legislation and who has seen the suffering firsthand of the families at Sandy Hook whom he has become very close to, has asked for space to see what progress can be done with Senate Republicans.

Neither he nor I is under an illusion that this will be easy; it will not. But his view, my view, and the overwhelming view of our caucus is that we need to give it a short amount of time to try. There are others, too, in this caucus reaching out to our Republican colleagues as we speak—Senator BLUMENTHAL, Senator COONS, Senator HEINRICH, Senator MANCHIN, and others. We have also been in talks with our allies across gun advocacy groups, and we all have a strong and burning desire to see something real, something tangible come across, come together here in the Senate.

Again, none of us are under any illusions that it will be easy. None of us want to let this drag out. We know all too well the vice grip that the NRA and MAGA wing hold over the GOP, and we have been burned in the past. America has been burned in the past.

After the shootings in El Paso and Dayton 3 years ago, the Republican leader promised red flag laws and background checks would be front and center in the Senate debate. He didn't put them on the floor, and Republicans did nothing. But that is not an excuse for Democrats not to try. Too many families have suffered, too many kids have been lost, too many communities have

been destroyed. This is too important not to explore every option.

I want to be clear. This is not an invite to negotiating indefinitely. Make no mistake about it, if these negotiations do not bear fruit in a short period of time, the Senate will vote on gun safety legislation. Let me repeat. If these negotiations do not bear any fruit, the Senate will vote on gun safety legislation when we return. But our hope, even amidst our deep skepticism, is, during this week, Democrats and Republicans, at long last, will come to agree on something meaningful that will reduce gun violence in a real way in America. Senator MURPHY and some of our colleagues believe that it is worth a chance, and we will give it that chance.

Unfortunately, though, Republicans haven't come forward in too long a time. There hasn't been this debate in too long a time. But even though it hasn't happened in too long a time, we feel an obligation to give it a chance.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

INFLATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. In America, inflation has topped 5 percent every month for the past year. The consumer price index continues to hover at levels our economy hasn't seen in four decades. As we head into Memorial Day weekend, the American people have become reluctant experts in its painful, real-life effects.

The average working family is now spending the equivalent of $5,000 a year on gas money. A year ago, the number was $2,800. Nationwide, gas prices have risen 46.9 cents just in the last month, and in Kentucky, they have risen actually even faster. Here's a quote from one of my constituents: ''I'm getting taken full advantage of,'' said one driver in Lexington.

Another said: ''It costs so much to fill up I have to do it half a tank at a time now.''

But according to President Biden, it is all part of what he calls an ''incredible transition.'' Well, that is a heck of a way to describe his administration's war on the most affordable, reliable, and abundant forms of energy in our country, forcing fuel prices so high that it requires Americans to transition to more expensive cars with supply chains controlled primarily by China and other hostile regimes with lower labor and environmental standards is not my idea of incredible.

But pain at the pump is only one of the tangled consequences of Washington Democrats' radical policies and reckless spending. Depending on where you are trying to go, higher fuel costs are hurting Americans' ability to enjoy major summer traditions. Rental car costs have jumped to 10.4 percent in the past year. Hotel rooms are going for 22.6 percent more, and plane tickets are up 33.3 percent.

Of course, millions of Americans are having a hard enough time paying for basic expenses, let alone planning summer vacations. Grocery stores now stock painful surprises on every aisle. Ground coffee is 14.7 percent more expensive than it was a year ago; eggs, up 22.6 percent. Anyone wanting to grill a bacon cheeseburger over Memorial Day weekend will find ground beef up 15 percent and bacon up 18 percent compared to only 1 year ago.

And utility bills now arrive with gut punches. For ratepayers in New England, electricity rates are projected to cost 16.4 percent more this summer than last summer. Everywhere they turn, American families are having to pare back expectations, put dreams on hold, and make bitter sacrifices.

It is no longer a shocking scandal; it is just normal life in Democrats' version of America: harder to fuel the tank, harder to feed the family, harder to get by.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER M. KUSKOWSKI

Madam President, on an entirely different matter, 9 years and a couple of months ago, an impressive young woman interviewed for a position in my office over in the Russell Building. She had worked for her home State senator out of college. At that point, she sharpened her chops on the House side. I knew 5 minutes into the meeting with Jennifer Kuskowski that we had found someone very special.

And now that young staffer from a decade back is departing the Senate as a commanding policy expert and one of my most indispensable advisors.

Jen began as my legislative assistant for healthcare. In less than 2 years, she earned a no-brainer promotion to be the legislative director for my whole personal office, a sort of player-coach overseeing all policy areas. For a couple of years, Jen briefly betrayed us and obtained committee experience with Chairman Hatch at the Senate Finance Committee. But we soon stole her back for my leadership office here in the Capitol.

For more than 3 years, she has been my crucial point person on some of the most complex issues we face—from healthcare to education to tech and telecom. She is the consummate professional, reliable, calm, clear under pressure. She knows her portfolio like the back of her hand, and Jen genuinely loves the legislative process. As her colleagues playfully reminded her with some frequency, Jen is a policy nerd's policy nerd.

Now, don't get me wrong, Jen's not naive. She has the realism and tenacity of a grizzled veteran, but even as a top staffer who works directly with Senators and coordinates across committees, Jen has still got the same earnestness as the young woman I met a decade back. And I think I know why. I think Jen Kuskowski loves mastering thorny policy issues because she understands that policy impacts people.

In between her first and second stint on the Hill, Jen served in the Peace Corps, working on health issues in Ecuador. That is hands-on experience you never forget.

And towards the other bookend of her Senate service, Jen spent the coronavirus pandemic first as an expectant mother and then with a newborn. She knew what was at stake as she tracked the science and helped assemble the Senate's historic, bipartisan response.

Jen has honed expertise in issues that touch families' lives very directly. And with that expertise, she has done unbelievably well. She was an early driving force to focus Congress on the opioid epidemic. She was alert to the plague of substance abuse years before anybody in Washington was even discussing it.

Jen was the central player in my effort to raise the minimum tobacco age to 21. She played a huge role in structuring the historic relief for hospitals and providers that kept health systems above water in the early weeks of the COVID crisis.

She was a key quarterback as we crafted support for vaccines and therapeutics that got America back on offense. Across many years, across many issues, Jen Kuskowski's expertise and professionalism have literally saved lives throughout Kentucky and across America. It is not an exaggeration; it is literally true. Families across the Commonwealth and across the Nation that will never meet Jen have benefited from the fact that she has been one of the most reliable closers on Capitol Hill. When an issue lands in her court, it gets resolved, period.

Now, saying Jen cares about policy because she cares about people might sound like sort of a sappy cliche, but everybody in the Senate can attest there is nothing remotely sappy or ''Hallmark card'' about her. Jen's sarcastic sense of humor is world-class. She does not suffer fools. She pursues goals with bulldog determination, and a competitive fire burning below the surface. But all this coexists with a deep kindness and care for others. It is really a very special package.

Jen has been the likeliest member of our team to seek out a colleague who is having a hard day and offer a pep talk and the likeliest person to aim a witty barb at a friend who is feeling overconfident and needs to be taken down a peg. Any team would be lucky to have either someone as diligent and professional as Jen or somebody as compassionate or someone as wickedly funny. It has been our special blessing to have all three in one person.

So as you can see, Jen has rendered the Senate a special and unique service. So I am happy to report the institution has repaid Jen in a special and unique way as well. When we first met Jen, she was Jennifer Conklin, but she leaves the Senate partnered to her husband Officer Andrew Kuskowski of the United States Capitol Police. They are proud parents of little Zachary.

And after a decade of late-night negotiations and weekend conference calls,

our friend is excited to strike out and tackle new challenges.

So, Jen, I am so grateful for your outstanding service. We know you will continue to be a force of nature wherever you go, and you will keep serving the common good, just in new and different ways.

You have done your family proud. You have done me proud. And I hope you are proud. Your fine service has literally saved lives and changed our country for the better.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The junior Senator from Kentucky.

H.R. 350

Mr. PAUL. Today, we will have a bill before us ostensibly titled and ostensibly about the subject of domestic terrorism.

But this bill would be more accurately called the Democrat plan to brand and insult our police and soldiers as White supremacists and neo-Nazis. How insulting.

I have met our Nation's policemen. I have visited with policemen across Kentucky, through our big cities and small, and I have not met one policeman motivated or consumed with any kind of sort of racial rage. What I have met are proud policemen and women who care about the people that they protect in our society, but also who care about their fellow officers.

I have not met one policeman who would not defend their partner: Black, White, Jewish, Christian, Muslim. I don't see the kind of sort of insulting rage that the Democrats have for our police.

I have met our country's young soldiers and marines. I don't meet racists. I don't meet White supremacists. I don't meet neo-Nazis. I meet young men and women who are courageous enough to defend our country. And what an insult it is to put a bill before this House that says: Oh, somehow our marines are consumed with White supremacy and neo-Nazism. How insulting.

In fact, I don't think you could look at a group of young men and women who are more adapted to the times, who are more accepting of their fellow man. And I have never—I have never—heard of a marine saying: Oh, I am not going to carry my fallen colleague out because he is African American. I have never heard of an African-American marine saying: I am not going to carry out my fellow marine because they are White.

If there is any kind of grouping in our country more accustomed to treating people because they are your fellow soldier and your friend, it is the military. To insinuate that the military is consumed with White supremacy is an insult. To insinuate that our soldiers are somehow these terrible people, these neo-Nazis and White supremacists, that we are going to get a new government Agency to police the marines—the marines are a proud part of our military. Our soldiers are a proud part of our country. These are the people who do not see color, who do not see race, who do not see religion. These are the people who don't leave their fallen.

Do you think the marines go around saying ''Oh, we are going to leave our fallen if they have a certain race or religion''? You don't see that. The marines, the soldiers in our country, the people who defend our country, the people who defend and love our country, are the least consumed with any kind of notion of race. How insulting.

This bill states as if it were a fact in the beginning of section 5 that this bill will create ''an interagency task force to analyze and combat White supremacist and neo-Nazi infiltration of the uniformed services and federal law enforcement.'' This is not just an insult to your local police or to the Marines or to the Army and to the Navy; this is an insult to the FBI; it is an insult to the Capitol Police. This bill says that they have been infiltrated. This says that our police are consumed with some kind of race rage.

It is untrue, and it is slander, and it is scandalous, but it is predictable. This is the party that wants to defund the police. But this party not only wants to defund the police, they think the police are full of hatred and racism. It is not true.

Every policeman in our country, every soldier in our country should look at this bill and say: Who are these people? White supremacy and neo-Nazism infiltration of the Marines? That is not true. It is an insult to every marine in our country. It is an insult to every soldier in our country. It is an insult to every policeman in our country. It is an insult to the Capitol Police.

I don't see this in our country. I actually see our armed services as probably one of the areas where people intermix regardless of race and religion better than any segment. These are our young men and women who live in close quarters in barracks. These are our young men and women who go overseas. These are our young men and women who have given arms and legs, and I don't hear examples—I don't know of an example of some guy who says: Oh, yeah, we were blown up by an IED, but we decided to leave that guy because he is of a different race. How insulting.

So you are going to have a task force to investigate our soldiers. This is a Federal task force that is going to go in and investigate our soldiers for White supremacy—I guess read their emails, read what websites they go to—because the implication is they are guilty until they can prove themselves innocent. That is what this will set up. It will set up more government Agencies that presume your guilt. But it is an insult to our armed services, to our police, and to anybody who works in law enforcement.

One might well ask if Democrats now believe that the U.S. military and Federal, State, and local police departments are all corrupted. Are there White supremacists and neo-Nazis running around our country?

Look, when I visit even the larger cities in Kentucky, when I visit the Louisville Police Department, guess what. I see African Americans and Whites working together and Brown, Hispanic—whatever you want to call people—all working together. I see high-ranking people in our department who are African American. I don't see that everybody is running around hating each other. I see Black officers and White officers who work together as partners, who care about each other and would defend to the last breath their partner if they were shot in the line of duty. I have seen the officers who have been shot, Black and White. I don't see any of them saying: Oh, yeah, well, we are not going to do anything because that person is of a certain race.

This bill is an insult to every police officer in this country. This bill is an insult to everyone in our armed services. This bill says that the armed services have been infiltrated by White supremacy.

So if you are a soldier in our country, if you are a policeman in our country, you need to let your Congressman or Senator know that you are not a White supremacist and that it is an insult for the Democrats to call you a White supremacist. It is an insult for the Democrats to say our police force is full of White supremacy, that our armed services is full of this.

Everybody in this country who works in law enforcement should be outraged by this bill and should respond and say: No, that is not me, and that is not any of my colleagues. That is not what the Kentucky police force is about. That is not what the National Guard is about. That is not what the Marines are about. What an insult. What an insult.

So what do they do? They set up a new Department in Homeland Security. Isn't Homeland Security Federal too? Have they not been infiltrated as well?

See, the implication of this bill is that all people are bad, that there is this great and worrisome thing that is infecting America—when the opposite is true.

I was born in the 1960s. Every decade has gotten better. People get along better. We have more intermarriage between races. We have more integration within churches. I see less and less of this that everybody is saying is now infecting us.

But they don't realize that they are insulting everyone. They are insulting the police. They are insulting our marines. They are insulting our armed services.

The bill creates two other Departments. These essentially are Departments that are going to be the thought police of the military.

We just took down the ''Ministry of Truth,'' which was in the Department

of Homeland Security. It took a couple of weeks for them to finally be ashamed that they were going to try to censor speech, and the Biden administration has canceled it or at least put it on pause. But this bill will create two other Agencies, two other thought police offices at the Department of Justice and the FBI—seems like a self-defeating choice since elsewhere in the bill, we are told that Federal law enforcement is completely infiltrated by White supremacists and neo-Nazis.

But, again, none of the bill makes sense. It doesn't make sense because it was a bill that was never intended to become law and won't. It is a dumb Washington talking points memo masquerading as legislation, but it is also a grave insult to anyone involved in law enforcement, anyone involved in the military. But congressional Democrats have gotten so radical, so extreme, so out of touch with the American people, that when they read it, they think this is something worthwhile to do. It is a messaging bill for today.

This bill will fail today, though, because the Democrats' message—hate the police; defund the police; the police are terrible people; the military are terrible people—to slander the military and the police as racist and White supremacist has been roundly rejected by the American people and will continue to be.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, later on today, we are going to be voting on a Congressional Review Act dealing with the title 42—actually, more specifically, the asylum rule dealing with what is happening at our southwest border right now.

Let me first say something I don't normally say on this floor. I am pleased the Biden administration is trying to address this. It is a step that—someone in the administration has noticed there is a problem with the asylum rule, and they are trying to address it. This solution will not fix the problem, but at least we are working on the problem.

I can say this to the Biden administration and to this body: If we do not legislatively fix the asylum rule, what is happening on our southern border will never get better. We have to address what is the problem there. It is not that there are root causes in Central America. We are the United States of America; everyone in the world wants to be here. If all you have to do is cross the border and say the magic words ''I have credible fear'' and the Biden administration hands you a piece of paper and you are in the country for the next 8 years—8 years—until your hearing, the whole world is going to keep coming here.

Now, right now, literally right now, we have 8,000 people a day who are illegally crossing our border—8,000.

Last summer, in the midst of all the chaos, when all the cameras were focused on our southern border, there were 6,000 people a day who were illegally crossing our border. It is literally worse now than it was a year ago, but the cameras have all moved on and said ''nothing to see here'' when it continues to be able to get worse literally every month. Last month, a quarter-million people illegally crossed the border—a quarter-million. Half of those were turned away with title 42 authority, which the Biden administration is trying to end to allow everyone to be able to come across the border.

But this asylum rule gives me some sense of hope that they are at least identifying what the problem is and trying to start working on it. Here is the problem, though: The way that this rule is actually set up, almost every negative determination made under this expedited asylum process gets appealed under the normal process anyway. So while they are creating an expedited process, all they have to do is say ''I disagree with the expedited process,'' and they get through the long, protracted, 8-year process anyway. It doesn't solve the problem.

So while the executive branch is trying to do something, their ''something'' that they are doing doesn't actually fix the issue. We have to change this issue in law.

Secretary Mayorkas was on the Hill 2 weeks ago. He came and presented the new plan in place for what they are going to do on the border. Part of that plan was this new asylum rule. But when you read the summary, at the very end of it—they go through all their details, these high-level points of six different areas where they are going to work to be able to decrease. At the end of it, the summary statement ends with ''Despite our best efforts, we anticipate an increase in migration.'' What they are saying is, the policies that they currently have in place are going to continue to increase migration even with things like this new asylum rule that they are trying to be able to put in place because they know this doesn't actually fix the problem.

MPP, the ''Remain in Mexico'' program that a Federal court has required them to maintain—they are doing MPP only in such a way to say to the Federal courts: We are doing something.

We have 8,000 people a day who are illegally crossing the border. We have about 2,000 people a month whom they are putting through the MPP program. We have 8,000 people a day who are illegally crossing the border. Currently, ICE is deporting 203 people a day. With 8,000 people a day crossing and 203 people actually being deported, you see the math here. They are not trying to stop the flow. They are not trying to disincentivize this.

We need to actually get serious about this. So, yes, I am going to support a Congressional Review Act on this individual piece because it doesn't actually fix the problem. Let's actually sit down and fix the problem actually in the statute. That is what needs to be done.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I rise to support this Congressional Review Act resolution of disapproval of the rule recently published by the Department of Homeland Security and the Executive Office for Immigration Review entitled ''Procedures for Credible Fear Screening and Consideration of Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and CAT Protection Claims by Asylum Officers.''

Madam President, we are currently experiencing an unprecedented crisis on our southern border. As of April of this year, 4 months into 2022, over 1 million illegal crossings have been encountered at our southern border. And with the administration fighting the migrant protection protocols and willing to remove the title 42 restrictions on entry, this crisis is about to get much, much worse.

We have heard estimates of unauthorized border encounters this summer ranging close to 20,000 daily. We don't know how to handle these numbers, and nothing has been done by the administration to deter these immigrants. Despite knowing of the coming influx and despite understanding the statutory mandates which would require immigrants to be detained, this administration is closing detention centers. It appears we now have fewer than 20,000 detention beds available.

This seems to suggest that DHS has no intention of detaining these immigrants, even though it is plainly required by statute. In the midst of this unprecedented crisis at our southern border, the Department of Homeland Security, under Secretary Mayorkas, has, by regulation, bypassed duly enacted laws to make the asylum process a mere rubberstamp for basically anyone who can make it to our border. Because of the internet and the sophistication of coyotes and cartels, every alien encountered knows to express fear of returning to their home country, thus triggering the asylum process.

This rule would change that adversarial process—whereby one actually has to produce some shred of evidence that they qualify for asylum to a non-adversarial process—whereby the alien merely has to assert their claim. Additionally, this rule would take the asylum decisions out of the hands of immigration judges and put them into the hands of frontline screeners who often have no legal skills at all.

This rule violates current immigration laws—laws passed by this body, laws enacted by Congress. It violates the separation of powers by usurping congressional authority to enact the laws of the Nation. Currently, under the law, until an immigration judge has ruled on an asylum claim, the claimant is required to be detained. Under the proposed rule, there would be no need for detention because no time would be required to rubberstamp that asylum application. It just happens.

It is very interesting that this rule is about to go into effect right before this already unprecedented crisis exponentially increases. I don't think this is by accident. It is by design. This rule demonstrates that they simply want to manage the unprecedented influx of illegal immigrants into every American city, making every town a border town.

America has always been a welcoming land, a land with outstretched arms. And it always should be. I am very proud of Utahns for how well they exemplify that welcoming spirit to immigrants, including the refugees and the asylum seekers who come into our State. I am also concerned that if we degrade the process by administrative rule, we erode our ability to give refuge and asylum in the cases where it is truly needed, in the cases where, as a representative body, we have decided it should be given.

Now, in studying this rule, I was struck by the fact that it assumes asylum is a right—a legal right—for anyone and everyone managing somehow to get to our border. It is not a right. Asylum is a gift, a gift that the United States can choose to bestow on those who really need it: the persecuted, when authorized by law and consistent with the terms of the law. This rule doesn't ever mention the interests of the American citizen in this process, not once—the interest that would usually be representative in the adjudicative adversarial process that occurs before a judge. The American people are left out of this process. In fact, that process is eliminated by this rule. Indeed, this rule is completely unconcerned with the interests of the American people. It prioritizes the claimed interests of illegal immigrants over the interests of our own people and American national security. It must be struck down, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The majority whip.

H.R. 350

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this morning we are going to consider H.R. 350, which is legislation which I introduced some time ago. I want to describe it because it has been inaccurately described before and let Members know what they are voting on.

First, what does it relate to? Domestic terrorism. Is that a Federal crime? You bet it is, and this particular bill makes reference to that crime. Hate crimes? It refers to that too. Is that a real crime? It is a Federal crime, and we refer to it specifically.

So what new crimes are created in this bill? None. Not one. What we are doing is asking the Federal Agencies that have the responsibility of national security to give us timely reports on the incidence of domestic terrorism, and we say to them there are categories which the FBI has already established of domestic terrorism. And those categories—I would like to spell out a couple of them to you so it is pretty clear what we are going after here: racially and ethnically motivated violent extremism; anti-government, anti-authority violent extremism; animal rights and environmental violent extremism; abortion-related violent extremism and others.

So those are already categories of domestic terrorism that the FBI reports on. What we are saying is, give us those reports in a timely fashion so we can see the incidence of these forms of extremism and the commission of crimes.

But there is one correction that we are making that is very important. During the Trump administration, they eliminated reference in this list of categories of domestic terrorism of White supremacist activity. The reason why it is important for us to include that is that we have the sworn testimony of the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that this is a category of crime and terrorism in America that is ''metastasizing''—his word, metastasizing. So we believe it is important that we be given information about the incidence of violent extremism, domestic terrorism, that relates to this type of activity, this White supremacy.

I will tell you, it is not an imagined crime. We see the reality of it way too often. We just saw it 2 weeks ago in Buffalo, NY. That shooter put his so-called manifesto on the internet and declared, among other things, his support for the ''great replacement theory.''

The ''great replacement theory'' is a thinly veiled White supremacist theory that tries to suggest that immigrants to America are somehow only arriving at the expense of those already here, particularly White Americans. That sort of theory has been out there since the days of the Ku Klux Klan, maybe even before it. But it is White supremacy. It inspired this man to do terrible things in Buffalo and kill innocent people at that grocery store.

So we are asking the FBI to give us this information. We will draw conclusions as we will, but that is basically it. No new crime is created nor is any new authority being created in the process. I think that is a critical element.

But there is one other thing that is part of this exercise this morning in voting for H.R. 350. The majority leader, Senator SCHUMER, after the events in Uvalde, TX, declared that we are going to try to reach out, on a bipartisan basis, to come up with legislation to deal with gun safety and safety in schools. His first effort to do this is this bill.

What we are voting on is a motion to proceed to the bill. He has invited colleagues, on a bipartisan basis, to come forward and to offer their amendments in the field of gun safety and school safety. That is why this motion to proceed is more than just the bill I described. It is an opportunity for amendments on the floor.

This morning, I had an interview with CNN, and they talked about the fact that we are leaving for a week for Memorial Day to honor our veterans and be home and then return. Why aren't we staying and working? Well, here is the chance for us to make it clear that we are going to work on what happened in these terrible tragedies in Uvalde, TX, and Buffalo, NY, and so many others.

So I am appealing to my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle, if you have any ideas, and I hope you do, for gun safety, school safety, and to make this a safer nation, this is the vehicle to do it. A ''yes'' vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 350 is your opportunity to open a process where we can consider amendments.

Senator SCHUMER was very explicit. He invited Democrats as well as Republicans to come forward with their best ideas on a bipartisan basis. And isn't that what the people of the country are actually asking for, more than anything; that we roll up our sleeves and face this challenge which has taken so many innocent lives?

In the newspaper yesterday, in the New York Times, they did a feature on those wonderful little kids and the teachers who lost their lives in Uvalde, TX. It is heartbreaking to see those kids, those beautiful little children, and to realize that they are no longer with us and that their families are grieving in a way they never imagined they would.

Isn't it up to us to do something about it rather than just give press releases? Isn't it up to us as legislators to legislate and try to find solutions? This opportunity, the motion to proceed, opens the door to that possibility.

We can return the week after Memorial Day recess and start in earnest considering amendments offered by Democrats and Republicans which deal with this issue. We owe the American people that. We are elected to this job to legislate, not just to give speeches but to change the laws in this country to make it safer. This is our chance to do it. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, vote for H.R. 350. This is an important bill in and of itself, but equally important is the fact that it opens a process Americans are longing to hear that we take seriously. I urge my colleagues to support the motion to proceed on H.R. 350.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes, followed by Senator JOHNSON for 10 minutes, prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

ROBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today was supposed to be the last day of school in Uvalde, TX. Each of us can remember how excited we were as children, as students, but especially we can remember being a parent the last day of school our child attended. Your child

would perhaps run into your arms and recount a fun-filled day with their classmates. They would sling their backpack on the backseat of the car and talk about how excited they were about the summer, to spend days playing with their friends and their siblings, swimming at the local pool with friends, and maybe even going on a vacation with their grandparents.

Today, those children, those parents, and those teachers in Uvalde, TX, have been robbed of the excitement and normalcy that this day would normally bring. Instead of celebrating the last day of school, 21 families are making funeral arrangements.

Earlier this week, a monster viciously murdered innocent children and their teachers at Robb Elementary School. So far we know that 21 people have been killed by the shooter, including 19 students and 2 teachers. This tragedy has absolutely shattered the tight-knit community of Uvalde, TX.

Uvalde is a town of about 15,000 people, about 65 miles from the United States-Mexican border. There is one high school football team, one H-E-B Grocery store, and one post office. The families of Uvalde have known each other and loved each other's children for as long as they can remember.

The grief caused by this attack is shared by the entire community, and I join all Texans in lifting up the victims, their families, and those who are struggling to make sense of this tragedy.

Yesterday, I was in Uvalde with my fellow Texans in mourning. I joined hundreds of people in donating blood and received an update from law enforcement and both State and community leaders. As though we needed a reminder of the tight-knit community, a deputy sheriff himself lost his own daughter in this attack, and two members of the mayor's staff lost children as well.

One of the conversations I had that really struck home was with an older gentleman who responded to the call for blood donations at the Herby Ham Activity Center. As we waited our turn to donate blood, he shared with me that he had lost two grandchildren in the shooting. It is not possible for us to comprehend the pain he must be feeling, but there he was, donating blood. Two young lives were stolen from his family, and, still, this man stood in line so he could support his community in some tangible way.

During the briefing from law enforcement, two of the Uvalde police officers who responded to the shooting shared their harrowing experiences with us, and in the face of such unthinkable evil, their courage was unwavering. One of these Uvalde police officers responded to the scene, and I had a chance to thank him personally.

I want to thank all of the law enforcement officials, the emergency medical technicians, and healthcare workers who responded to this tragedy and who continue to support the survivors and their loved ones.

At times like this, I am reminded of a quote I heard some time ago from a county commissioner in the face of a similar tragedy. He said:

> Being a Texan doesn't describe where you are from as much as it describes who your family is.

Today, our entire family is mourning. Our hearts are broken by those who lost loved ones and the survivors who will never forget this terrifying and senseless attack.

While the terror of this attack will weigh on all of us, we saw the spirit of my State on full display as resources poured out to help the loved ones of the community who were hurting so badly. From mental health counseling to food donations, there was an outflow of support from the South Texas community.

At times like this, words seem so inadequate. There is no good way to completely express the heartbreak and anger that swell in your chest at a moment like this. All we can say, perhaps, is that our condolences are with the families who are grieving such a cruel and unexpected loss. I can't fathom the pain of seeing an empty bed where your child slept the night before.

Knowing we can't turn back the clock to prevent this tragedy from occurring, the obvious question then is, How do we prevent something like this from happening again?

At this point, law enforcement is still investigating and piecing together the full story. In the coming days, I expect we will have better information about the shooter and his background and the circumstances that led to this senseless, brutal act. Once it does, I am eager to see whether there were any gaps that might have done something to make this attack less likely, that might have actually even prevented this attack from taking place.

In the past, I have worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to prevent senseless tragedies from occurring, through things like Fix NICS and the Mental Health and Safe Communities Act. Fix NICS, you will recall, occurred after the Sutherland Springs shooting, where the shooter's criminal convictions were not uploaded by the Air Force into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, so he was able to go to a local sporting goods store and buy weapons—by lying and buying. I am convinced that in working with Senator MURPHY and all of our colleagues, we were able to get 70 or more cosponsors on that bill because it actually addressed a real gap in the system, and it would actually give us some hope that we would actually save lives in the future.

I am not interested in making a political statement. I am not interested in the same old tired talking points. I am actually interested in what we can do to make the terrible events that occurred in Uvalde less likely in the future. We don't know everything we need to know, but once we do, I expect there will be an informed debate about the reforms we can make, and I look forward to participating in those discussions.

For now, the focus should remain on supporting the people of this little community, who suffered an immeasurable loss this week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, let me first also express my condolences and associate myself with the comments of the Senator from Texas. The tragedy is horrific. It is hard to think of anything more awful than what happened in Texas and in other schools over the last few years.

ASYLUM RULE

Mr. President, I come to the floor today for another reason—in support of using the Congressional Review Act to disapprove of and prevent the implementation of a rule titled Procedures for Credible Fear Screening and Consideration of Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and CAT Protection Claims by Asylum Officers. I will refer to this rule as the ''asylum rule'' to make it a little bit simpler. As the title suggests, there is an awful lot to this, but the reason we ought to disapprove of it is actually quite simple.

This rule will go into effect at the end of this month, on May 31. On May 31, what this new rule will do is it will allow the USCIS, asylum officers, to begin granting asylum without review by an immigration court.

It is important to note that section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which governs removal proceedings, states:

> [a]n immigration judge shall conduct proceedings for deciding the inadmissibility or deportability of an alien.

Now, an immigration court is an adjudicative court. It is a separate unit of government from a USCIS officer, who is within the Department of Homeland Security in the executive branch. It is a check and balance on executive action. It is a very necessary check and balance on an executive who is not faithfully executing the laws, as we have today with President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas.

On May 1 of this year, news reporter Bret Baier asked Secretary Mayorkas in an interview:

> Is it the objective of the Biden administration to sharply reduce the total number of illegal immigrants coming across the southern border?

The obvious answer to Bret Baier's question is, That is the goal—to reduce the flow of people coming into this country illegally.

That ought to be every administration's goal. That is what a President and an administration would do if they were faithfully executing the laws; but listen to Secretary Mayorkas's reply, his answer.

Secretary Mayorkas stated: ''It is the objective of the Biden administration to make sure that we have safe, orderly, and legal pathways for individuals to be able to access our legal system.''

I first must note that our legal system is horribly broken. It is that legal system that has produced this result. Now, I don't expect the viewers to look at and to be able to see everything on this chart, but you can go to my website and download this, and you will see the cause and effect of various directives, of various rules, of various regulations, and of various court orders and proceedings to cause this explosion—this out-of-control flow—of illegal immigration.

By the way, it all started back in 2009 when then-ICE Director Morton issued a directive directly contravening the plain language of the law that required detaining individuals whose asylum claim was being adjudicated. So we stopped detaining them.

Then, of course, in June 2012, President Obama, through his DHS Secretary, created the DACA memorandum, which was an open invitation to unaccompanied children coming to this country because they knew that, once they got here, they would be able to stay.

If you take a look at the history here, the gold represents single adults coming into this country illegally and being apprehended. This is on a monthly basis. Blue is family units exploiting our very broken asylum system, where the credible fear standard gives you a free pass into the country. Red represents unaccompanied children.

It is important to note that back in 2014, when President Obama declared it a humanitarian crisis, about 2,000 people were being apprehended at the border on a daily basis—2,000. Now, again, because of different policy choices, the word gets out—and because of different court decisions—and people in Central America and throughout the world realize that we are not following our asylum laws. We have a virtually open border. We are engaging in ''catch and release.''

So President Trump had to deal with a surge in 2019 of more than 4,000 people per day in a given month, and you can see that surge here. But President Trump took action. He engaged. He implemented the Return to Mexico policy. He made agreements with the Central American countries and Mexico, and we pretty well stopped the flow of unaccompanied children and family units. We actually reduced the flow of single adults who were exploiting our broken immigration system.

Then, during the Presidential debates, Democratic candidates, including President Biden, declared to the world that they weren't going to deport people; they were going to offer people who were coming into this country illegally free healthcare.

You can see, even during 2020, as we were building the walls—and we had the Return to Mexico policy in place—that single adults realized there might be a change in policy, and they started flooding our border. If you will notice, we went from, on average over about 10 years, about 30,000 single adults per month coming into this country to the last 2 months, when it has been over 150,000 or closer to 160,000, 170,000 single adults. Throw on top of that, at almost the minute that President Biden came into office and dismantled those successful programs, we then had a new flood, a new surge, of family units in blue and unaccompanied children flooding our border and exploiting our asylum laws.

This new rule that is about to take effect at the end of this month, the asylum rule, again, circumvents, is contrary to stated law that says immigration judges, immigration courts, need to make that asylum determination, not members of the administration, not USCIS officers.

What this rule does is it gives that power to grant asylum—an awesome power that Congress never meant to give to the administration—to USCIS officers and only allows a judge to take a look at it if the asylum claim is denied by the USCIS officer. This isn't going to do anything to reduce the backlog. What this will do is this increase the flow. This is another signal throughout the world that we have an open border policy.

The only restraint right now is title 42, and this administration is working actively to overturn a court order that says you must keep title 42 restrictions in place. And if the USCIS officer isn't as generous as we fear they all will be and actually denies asylum, you are right back there in immigration courts. So the only purpose of this rule is to increase the flow, to accomplish Secretary Mayorkas's stated goal of making sure we have a safe, orderly, and legal pathway for individuals to access our legal system. In other words, this administration's policy on the border isn't to secure it, isn't to reduce the flow; it is to make the processing and dispersing of illegal immigrants more efficient so more will come.

Last year, one and a quarter million people either encountered and dispersed or came in as known ''gotaways,'' came to this country illegally and were dispersed. That is a number that is larger than the population of eight States. That is how out of control this crisis is. Yet Secretary Mayorkas won't even call it a problem, much less a crisis.

So it is obvious how harmful this rule is to our Nation and to our national security. An open border is a national security threat.

I urge my colleagues to join me in using the Congressional Review Act to disapprove of this rule and prevent its implementation.

With that, I yield the floor.

H.R. 350

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I speak today on the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act.

As I have said many times, I am committed to fighting political violence from across the political spectrum. This bill doesn't help us do that.

In fact, career DOJ attorneys reviewing the legislation have indicated that the bill is ''harmful'' and ''counterproductive.'' I use their words.

This short bill merely reorganizes the government offices that already fight domestic terrorism in DHS, DOJ, and the FBI. This reorganization wasn't sought by the Agencies themselves.

In fact, in technical assistance provided to us, the operators pointed out a number of problems with it. For example, the bill assigns responsibilities monitoring and analyzing domestic terrorism activity to DHS that actually belong in FBI.

The other major feature of the legislation is a direction to the Agencies that they must focus on the greatest historical threats, looking backward.

The operators have told us this means they can't be agile or address rapidly evolving threats if they were to follow this law.

I am always willing to listen to the needs of Agencies that keep Americans safe.

In fact, there are authorities that DOJ and the FBI need, for international terrorism.

I introduced an amendment to the NDAA last year, to expand these authorities. I hope we will pass it into law this year.

The domestic and international functions work together, and siloing them would not help DOJ fight terrorism.

The Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act won't help us prevent or combat terrorism. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to vote no on moving to this bill.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am proud to support and cosponsor S. 4255, the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act of 2022, which the Senate is considering as H.R. 350. This bill is critically important in supporting law enforcement's response to domestic terrorism.

Domestic terrorism has become increasingly common. According to a recent study by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, more than two-thirds of domestic terrorist plots and attacks in 2020 were fueled by White supremacists and ideologically aligned violent extremists.

Unfortunately, just last week in Buffalo, NY, we saw the savage destruction that hate can cause. A gunman killed 10 people and injured 3 others in a local grocery store. Eleven of the 13 people who were shot were Black. Make no mistake, this act of violence was a domestic terrorism incident.

We must do more to stop these heinous acts of violence. To do this, we must provide our law enforcement with the resources they need. This bill will would help establish offices within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation that would monitor, investigate, and prosecute domestic terrorism crimes. This bill would also help ensure that all law enforcement agencies have access to antiterrorism resources.

I believe this bill is an important step to help address the rising threat of domestic terrorism throughout the country.

I am proud to cosponsor this bipartisan bill, and I am happy to see my Democratic colleagues support it on the floor today.

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, today, I will vote to open debate on H.R. 350, the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act.

Should the Senate so proceed, however, I will insist on a thorough and judicious debate and on a process that empowers Senators to offer and vote on amendments.

Before I determine whether to support passage of this legislation, I will weigh that debate, I will consider expert analysis and input from executive agencies, and I will assess the merits and effects of amendments that may be considered and adopted.

This legislative process must ensure that Federal law enforcement is transparent, accountable, and apolitical.

The threat of domestic terrorism is real. The United States must continue to confront it. We have sworn an oath to defend the Constitution from all enemies foreign and domestic. We must do so in a manner informed by objective threat assessments, consistent with our Constitution, and attentive to civil liberties.

Any time we establish or codify Federal law enforcement offices tasked with investigating and prosecuting crimes committed by Americans or collecting and analyzing intelligence related to American citizens, we must ensure safeguards are sufficiently robust to protect civil rights and civil liberties. Consideration of such legislation may present us with an opportunity to assess what Congress got right and what Congress got wrong in the aftermath of 9/11, when the Department of Homeland Security was established and Federal counterterrorism efforts and authorities grew considerably, and to calibrate policy accordingly.

In short, I vote today to open debate, but I do not yet commit to voting for passage of this legislation while the process of review, debate, and potential amendment continues.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 371, H.R. 350, a bill to authorize dedicated domestic terrorism offices within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to analyze and monitor domestic terrorist activity and require the Federal Government to take steps to prevent domestic terrorism.

Charles E. Schumer, Tim Kaine, Tammy Duckworth, Richard Blumenthal, Ben Ray Luján, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Christopher Murphy, Cory A. Booker, Jeanne Shaheen, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Gary C. Peters, Tina Smith, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 350, a bill to authorize dedicated domestic terrorism offices within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to analyze and monitor domestic terrorist activity and require the Federal Government to take steps to prevent domestic terrorism, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 210 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Luján	Stabenow
Coons	Manchin	Tester
Cortez Masto	Markey	Warner
Duckworth	Menendez	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Hagerty	Romney
Blunt	Hawley	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Schumer
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Shelby
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Toomey
Ernst	Moran	Tuberville
Fischer	Paul	Wicker
Graham	Portman	Young
Grassley	Risch	

NOT VOTING—6

Blackburn	Cruz	Murkowski
Cramer	Merkley	Van Hollen

(Mr. COONS assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 47.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now let me explain. I entered my ''no'' vote so we can bring this up again and gain more support. So I enter a motion to reconsider the failed cloture vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY RELATING TO ''PROCEDURES FOR CREDIBLE FEAR SCREENING AND CONSIDERATION OF ASYLUM, WITHHOLDING OF REMOVAL, AND CAT PROTECTION CLAIMS BY ASYLUM OFFICERS''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 46, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 46) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security relating to ''Procedures for Credible Fear Screening and Consideration of Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and CAT Protection Claims by Asylum Officers''.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

Mr. BROWN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 211 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Barrasso	Cotton	Hoeven
Blunt	Crapo	Hyde-Smith
Boozman	Daines	Inhofe
Braun	Ernst	Johnson
Burr	Fischer	Kennedy
Capito	Graham	Lankford
Cassidy	Grassley	Lee
Collins	Hagerty	Lummis
Cornyn	Hawley	Manchin

Marshall	Rubio	Tillis
Moran	Sasse	Toomey
Paul	Scott (FL)	Tuberville
Portman	Scott (SC)	Wicker
Risch	Shelby	Young
Romney	Sullivan	
Rounds	Thune	

NAYS—48

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Luján	Smith
Coons	Markey	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Tester
Duckworth	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden

NOT VOTING—6

Blackburn	Cruz	Murkowski
Cramer	Merkley	Van Hollen

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 46) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Republican leader.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

The Senator from New Jersey.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I am rising to ask unanimous consent to consider the nomination of Leopoldo Martinez. This body should confirm him today to serve as Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank.

From the world's highest per capita COVID infection and death rates to the largest economic contraction anywhere in the world, Latin America and the Caribbean are still struggling to recover from devastating waves of the pandemic.

The region also faces historic refugee and migration movements that stretch across the continent. And added to this, many of these nations must confront longstanding poverty and inequality as well as climate change and threats to the environment.

Given the significant economic social and development challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean, we urgently need Senate-confirmed leadership at our hemisphere's most important multilateral development bank. The Inter-American Development Bank is essential to addressing these issues.

It is critical that we have strong U.S. leadership at the Bank. Mr. Martinez brings decades of experience in the public and private sector, as well as academia, and he will provide exactly that.

He has advised Fortune 500 companies and private equity funds. He has helped international business and nongovernmental organizations, and he has committed to work with the Senate to support a much needed capital increase for the Bank, which we approved as part of the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act last year.

This nomination has been pending for 9 months—9 months. It is time for the Senate to act, especially when we have China—and I know my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have spent a lot of time talking about China and whether we were strong enough in meeting the China threat. Well, China is all over the Western Hemisphere making huge investments.

I talked to one foreign leader this past week from the hemisphere. He said to me: Listen, what is the United States offering? Because I am being offered $800 million, 1 percent, over 30 years. I am not taking it, but at some point, we need to have engagement in the hemisphere economically.

That is what the Inter-American Development Bank can do without costing U.S. taxpayers money. But for that, you need leadership that is focused on getting the IDB to build the partnerships and the programs that can help us have a presence to counter China in the first place and also to promote prosperity, security, and stability.

And for all of those of my colleagues who are concerned about the southern border, well, let's get an organization that can help create greater prosperity and stability in the hemisphere so people won't be fleeing from the circumstances.

I don't understand why this has taken 9 months, but that is what draws me to come to the floor. So I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee be discharged and the Senate proceed to the following nomination: PN1028, Leopoldo Martinez Nucete, to be United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of three years, vice Eliot Pedrosa; that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that no further motions be made in order to the nomination; and that any related statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. This nominee received a tie vote in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, meaning that he failed to be reported favorably to the floor. This tie vote indicates that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Republicans have significant concerns with this nominee; therefore, he should be discharged per the process laid out in the Senate power-sharing agreement for this Congress, not passed by unanimous consent. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I am going to be honest here. This isn't really about Mr. Martinez, his experience, his views. It is just another thinly veiled attempt to block another of the President's nominees and to do so at a time in which China is eating our lunch.

So the next time one of my colleagues gets up and talks about China, I am going to remind them of the position that they have taken to block one of the critical nominees who could help us meet that challenge in the Western Hemisphere.

Mr. President, let me turn to another nominee who has been pending before the Senate, who did pass the committee, by the way, favorably—not on a tie vote but favorably. I am going to, in a moment, ask unanimous consent to confirm Dr. Monde Muyangwa to serve as Assistant Administrator for USAID's Africa Bureau. This body should confirm her without delay.

The promotion of democracy, a key goal for USAID, is threatened throughout Africa. In just the past 2 years, there have been coups in Sudan, Chad, Guinea, Burkina Faso, and two in Mali.

Authoritarians across Africa have new tactics to subvert democratic movements. They have modern tools to silence dissenting voices. They deploy disinformation campaigns and sophisticated surveillance technology coming from China to stay in power. And from Mali to the Central African Republic, dictators are turning to Russian mercenaries for support.

Democracy advocates, human rights offenders, and civil society leaders across the continent are courageously working to realize their aspirations and goals. They need a reliable partner at USAID to keep the struggle for democracy in their countries, and that is why we have to advance this nominee today.

Dr. Muyangwa is eminently qualified to lead USAID's Africa Bureau. She brings extensive professional and academic experience in Africa. She is a Zambian-born immigrant to the United States, where she has held senior positions at the Wilson Center, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, and the National Summit on Africa. She was a Rhodes Scholar, a Wingate Scholar for her scholarship at Oxford, the valedictorian for her graduating class at the University of Zambia, and she holds a doctorate in international relations from the University of Oxford. Do you think she is well qualified? In short, her qualifications are exceptional.

Finally, let me say that while Africa faces many challenges, it is also a land of tremendous opportunity. But here, again, China is all over Africa in precious minerals and other precious materials, in subverting nascent democracies by their debt-trap diplomacy. And where are we? Absent, because we don't even have somebody who can focus on the hemisphere—a hemisphere that we should have gotten a lot more votes at the United Nations when we were pursuing the sanctions against Russia. But guess what. We don't have anybody talking to these countries. So I see no reason, with somebody with

such a stellar background, to ultimately be objected to.

So I will I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 815, Monde Muyangwa, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Reserving the right to object, USAID awarded a $200 million grant for a 10-year viral emergence early warning project known as PREDICT.

We have uncovered evidence of possible embezzlement, possible money laundering, and insider threats, as well as other concerns related to the PREDICT and other USAID grant awards.

PREDICT was led by a consortium spearheaded by UC Davis and EcoHealth Alliance, which funneled taxpayer dollars to the Wuhan Institute of Virology to conduct risky research on potential pandemic pathogens, including bat coronavirus research.

USAID and NIH both awarded multimillion dollar grants to EcoHealth Alliance during the same 5-year period leading up to and immediately preceding the COVID–19 outbreak.

EcoHealth is unable to produce to NIH proof of its research, such as lab notebooks and virus samples, so we are simply asking USAID for proof of the EcoHealth research they funded. We requested records from USAID that grant recipients are legally required to maintain. Our requests are, indeed, fact-based.

At this point, we believe either the USAID staff is withholding the records from Congress or they have failed to access them through the UC Davis and EcoHealth Alliance. Either option is unacceptable. As such, I object to the unanimous consent motion but look forward to working with the chairman to address these issues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, through the Chair, would my colleague say that—have you not been provided three rounds of documents that have been requested?

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Unfortunately, the documents were not what we asked for. They are incomplete. They don't give us what we are looking for. But we would welcome the opportunity to sit down with the chairman and try to address—

Mr. MENENDEZ. Through the Presiding Officer, has my colleague not been offered a briefing by USAID to try to answer the rest of his questions?

This is an extraordinary amount of information being offered for someone who is not even a member of the Foreign Relations Committee. But, nonetheless, in order to accommodate him, we want to get to a point that he feels comfortable to do so. Have you not been offered a briefing, which you have not yet accepted?

Mr. MARSHALL. Not that I am aware of.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Well, my understanding is that there has been, Mr. President, an offer of a briefing made to the Senator.

And, by the way, this has nothing to do with Dr. Muyangwa. She has nothing to do with any of this. She is nominated to be the Assistant Administrator for Africa, nothing to do with China, nothing to do with Wuhan, nothing to do with anything else.

I would urge my colleague, if you have all this information about illicit activities, please bring it forward. The committee would like to consider it. But I haven't seen any of it. It is time to put up or shut up.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of the Minister-Counselor, to be Director General of the Foreign Service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

ROBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to express my sorrow at the terrible shooting in Texas on Tuesday that claimed the lives of 2 teachers and 19 schoolchildren.

Like a lot of Americans, I cannot imagine the anguish these children's parents are facing right now as they grieve for sons and daughters whom they will never again drive to school or welcome home at the end of the day.

I pray that the Lord will be with them in their suffering and that they will receive the comfort and strength that they need.

My prayers are with the entire Uvalde community—the families of those killed, the injured, the teachers, and students who suffered such terror, the medical and law enforcement personnel who responded, and all those reeling from this terrible attack.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. President, this past weekend, I headed to Murdo, SD, the small town of around 500 people where I grew up.

Needless to say, any trip to Murdo brings back a lot of memories. First and foremost are those memories of my parents Pat and Harold Thune and of growing up with my three brothers and sister.

We were lucky kids to have my parents. My mom was a wonderful, loving, eternally optimistic mother who spent most of my growing up years as our school librarian. She was responsible for making sure that we Thune kids got some culture, whether we wanted it or not. She was the one who made sure we got an introduction to music and learned how to play the piano. With her encouragement, I even joined the swing choir—although I will spare you, Mr. President, from any recitals.

In the summer, she would make us come inside for an hour every day to read. I didn't always want to come inside on those beautiful summer days. At the time, I would have much preferred to keep shooting hoops with the basket my dad had attached to a pole in our backyard. But today I am grateful for every minute that she made us spend with books.

My dad, he was our hero—a division I basketball player, a World War II combat pilot. He was a teacher at my high school. And a coach. And the athletic director. Oh, and also the bus driver.

So between him and my mom as the librarian, we Thune kids were practically never away from our parents' watchful eyes. I am so grateful to have had my dad's coaching in sports and in life. My dad taught us, as players, to play as a team. He didn't like ball hogs or people who were in the game for the personal glory. He believed your job as a member of a team was to make the people around you better. If somebody else was in a better position to take the shot, you always made the extra pass. You didn't try to pad your own statistics. You played for the good of the team.

It is an attitude I have tried to carry with me throughout my life. My parents gave us Thune kids a strong set of values and an inheritance of faith. In good times and bad, faith was their anchor and the Holy Scriptures, their roadmap. And I am grateful that they taught us who to turn to in times of trouble.

Mr. President, being in Murdo reminded me of my parents, as it always does. It also made me reflect on just how lucky I was to grow up in a small town—and small-town South Dakota in particular. It is true that growing up in a small town meant that my parents had heard all about any of the Thune kids' misdemeanors before we even made it home.

But even with that little drawback, small-town life was wonderful. In Murdo, you know everyone, and everyone knows you. And that gave us a sense of community and belonging that we carry to this day. Growing up in Murdo also taught us just how much we are all connected.

Mr. President, South Dakotans are independent people, but we also rely on

our neighbors when the going gets tough. And the going can get tough. But, in Murdo, we knew that if a roof collapsed under the weight of snow or a windstorm came through and wiped out a barn or we lost a friend or family member, the whole community would rally around to help.

Small-town life has a beautiful simplicity. On summer nights, my dad would take us to get ice cream cones, and then we would drive down to the White River. We would roll down the windows and feel the breeze and watch the sun drop below the horizon—no staring at iPhones or checking likes on social media.

Those were idyllic evenings. Moments like those kept us connected to what really mattered: our family, our community, the land. Mr. President, the values I saw reflected growing up in Murdo are reflected in towns all across our State. In Murdo, I learned the character of South Dakotans, the work ethic, the commitment to freedom coupled with the belief in personal responsibility and the sense of responsibility to the broader community.

Agriculture, of course, is the lifeblood of South Dakota, and it is a hard way of life. It is backbreaking work in all weathers, always with the risk that all your work can be wiped out in moments by a storm.

Anyone who grows up on a farm or ranch knows that everybody has to pull their weight or the farm or ranch just don't survive. And I think that grounding in agriculture has helped give South Dakotans their reputation for having a strong work ethic and a commitment to getting the job done.

And I am not kidding about that reputation. As a Senator, I have traveled to a number of places around the world, and I regularly meet people—often military members—who talk about the work ethic of the South Dakotans they know. I am pretty sure it is that work ethic and sense of personal responsibility that is responsible for the fact that South Dakota has always punched above its weight when it comes to military service, as well as the patriotism that runs strongly through the South Dakota character.

South Dakotans cherish their freedoms, and they also believe that with freedom comes responsibility. And they have a deep appreciation for the Founders' vision that has allowed us to enjoy such freedom and for the sacrifices that have been required to secure it. With that comes an expectation that each generation has to do its part to pay freedom's price and protect all that we have been given.

The South Dakota values I learned growing up helped shape my political philosophy: my belief that government should be limited and that it is best when it is closest to the people; and that if a matter can be handled at the State or local level, it should be; that the legacy of the past is something to be cherished and preserved while leaving, at the same time, room for change and adaptation when needed; that freedom is a sacred gift, one that must be defended, and that with freedom comes responsibility; and, finally, that while government is necessary, government is not where we should look for salvation.

Mr. President, the legacy of growing up in South Dakota is a precious one. We didn't have much money, but we were very rich in the things that mattered. And I am deeply grateful for those years in Murdo, for the teachers and coaches and others in the community who invested in me, and for everyone who continues to make it feel like home and for the privilege of living in the Mount Rushmore State.

It is my very great honor to represent the people of South Dakota in the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, most of my people in Louisiana, I think, are probably much like your people in Maine. Most of my people—most of our people—they just get up every day and go to work. They obey the law. They pay their taxes. They try to do the right thing by their kids, try to teach their kids morals. And they try to save a little money for retirement as they enjoy living in what they believe is the greatest country in all of human history. But many of my people, Mr. President, are struggling.

President Biden took office on January 20 of last year. So—what are we?—we are in day 490 of Build Back Better. From where many of my people sit, nothing has been built and nothing is back and nothing is better. There is not a more appropriate example of that than the cost of living, inflation.

When President Biden took office, the cost of gasoline in my State was $2—$2 a gallon. It is between $4.15 and $4.25 right now. And it is not just gasoline, Mr. President. I mean, I don't need to tell you. A dozen eggs now costs $2.52. Ground beef is $5.41. A pound of chicken is $4.10.

The price of oil, the price of gasoline affects so much in terms of our economy. I mean, most of our food and our clothes and our plastics, the things we use every day, are delivered by air, by van, by tanker, all of which use gasoline. Pharmaceuticals are affected by the price of oil.

I don't think it is any secret that the Biden administration is trying to disrupt the production of oil in America. I think that is just a fact. We see it in the President canceling leases on Federal lands in the Gulf of Mexico, in ANWR. We see it from the difficult regulatory environment for oil and gas producers.

The President has just promulgated new rules for the National Environmental Policy Act. If those new rules come to fruition, it will be impossible to open a new pipeline in America, and I think we have to be honest about that.

Now, to be fair, the Biden administration is trying to disrupt the production of oil and gas, especially oil, for environmental reasons, of which we are both aware. But, instead, the Biden administration—this seems curious to me—wants us to buy oil from foreign countries. And those foreign countries deliver their oil in tankers that use 2,000 gallons of fuel an hour and emit 8 tons of carbon dioxide into the environment per hour. The irony of this is rich.

Inflation and oil—once again, I think so much of our inflation in all of the products that we need to maintain our standard of living today starts with the price of oil. Now, President Biden has said he has no control over the price of oil and, therefore, the price of gasoline. But, Mr. President, you can't have regulatory control over the drilling, the transporting, the storage, the refining, the trading, and the taxation of oil as the President does and say you have no control over the price of the commodity. I mean, that is just not true.

Here is what most people in my State see, Mr. President. The President, in March of last year, sent every American a $1,400 stimulus check. And they were grateful, but then the Biden administration, for its next trick, crashed their 401(k)s, increased their food bills by as much—for some as much as $3,000 a year; increased their rent, for many as much as $2,000 a year; and increased their gas bills for many as much as $1,000 a year.

And they don't see that as a good trade, Mr. President. And it is all derived from President Biden's energy policy, which is—here is his energy policy: wind, solar, and wishful thinking. It is just not realistic. And among other things, it is hurting our country. It is hurting my people in Louisiana desperately because of the rise in gasoline prices.

I was very disappointed to see this week that the President has changed his approach to inflation and the price of gasoline. He has said we are now in a transition period, and he said it as if that were a positive thing. He said we are on a transition, and when we get through this transition, we are going to be stronger than ever because we are not going to have to rely on fossil fuels.

And I am thinking, you know, I respect the President; but honestly, what planet did he parachute in from?

I had just finished reading JPMorgan's energy report; and JPMorgan, looking out until 2030—not 2050, 2030—just 8 years from now—said, in 2030, at the rate we are going, the demand for energy in America will be 20 percent greater than the supply. You know what that is going to do to the price, Mr. President. The JPMorgan energy report said that, at a minimum, in 2030, 8 years from now, the demand for oil is going to be 10 percent higher in America and the demand for natural gas is going to be 18 percent higher. You know what that is going to do to

prices. And the President is talking about this glorious transition as if this is going to last forever.

I don't know about the good people of Maine, but the good people of Louisiana, they just can't afford it. And my people deserve better.

Now, what is the answer? Here is my opinion: We have got to stop spending. The Federal Reserve has got to be given a chance to do its job. The U.S. Congress has a budget that we have set for the United States of America. We need to live within our budget. Except for defense spending, we need to freeze spending. We need to freeze it and give the Federal Reserve a chance to get this inflation under control.

Thank you, Mr. President. My people deserve better. The people of America deserve better.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS HEATH ROBINSON PACT ACT OF 2022

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator from Maine for the recognition. I appreciate it very, very much.

I will be very brief. I ask for up to 5 minutes, which I will use less than that.

Today is a historic day. Today, the Senate has agreed to move one step forward to the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson PACT Act of 2022. I want to thank Ranking Member MORAN and Senators BOOZMAN and HEINRICH for working with me to help deliver this bipartisan solution. It is the most comprehensive toxic exposure package for our veterans that Congress has ever delivered in this country's history. Frankly, it is one that has been years in the making. Actually, it has been decades in the making.

Named after a veteran who died from exposure to a toxic burn pit, this bill will address decades of inaction and failure by the U.S. Government to do the right thing by delivering toxic-exposed veterans their long-overdue healthcare and benefits.

This bill spans generations of veterans. It expands the presumption of Agent Orange exposure for those who served in Vietnam. Yes, that is right. That is what I said. We still haven't done right by the Vietnam-era veterans, but this bill makes it right. It adds new service-connected conditions to Agent Orange, including hypertension.

This bill also expands healthcare for more than 3½ million post-9/11 combat veterans and service-connects two dozen conditions caused by burn pit exposure, from cancers to lung disease.

To pull this off, we have to give the VA the resources it needs to better serve vets. This bill does that by funding more employees to process claims, upgrading claims processing technology, authorizing innovative ways to hire and retain VA healthcare staff, and investing in VA facilities across the country.

Passing this bill in Congress and getting it to the President's desk is the only way to keep our end of the bargain to our All-Volunteer military. This cannot be overstated: Freedom is not free. There is a price to pay. We send men and women in uniform off to fight wars on our behalf. You don't have to be a veteran exposed to Agent Orange and burn pits to understand that price.

The fact is that hundreds of thousands of veterans in my State and across this country are already paying for it, and they can no longer wait. So now is the time, folks. We are going to get back from Memorial Day. We are all going to be at Memorial Day events, and we are going to be celebrating the folks who gave the ultimate sacrifice. When we come back, we need to vote and celebrate the folks who have survived but yet have the impacts of toxic exposure.

I would encourage your support for this bill when we get back the week of June 6.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF MARCIA BERNICAT

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise in support of Marcia Bernicat to be the Director General of the foreign service at the U.S. Department of State. Our foreign service must have a leader that knows how to tackle the challenges of the 21st century. We need someone that understands the importance of modernizing the State Department workforce. We need someone who will prioritize diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility to reflect our Nation's wide range of backgrounds. Ambassador Bernicat is that person. She is an experienced career member of the Senior Foreign Service who has a deep understanding of the inner-workings of the Department and valuable overseas experience. She has served as Ambassador to Senegal and Guinea Bissau and as Ambassador to Bangladesh. Both times before, this body confirmed her by voice vote.

While serving as Ambassador to Bangladesh, she survived a terrorist attack on her motorcade, an experience that strengthened her resolve to keep Foreign Service Officers safe while serving abroad. She has also worked as the Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Human Resources. She speaks French, Hindi, and Russian and is a recipient of the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Award. She has a master's degree in the science in foreign service at Georgetown University and a bachelor's degree from Lafayette College. As a former Deputy Assistant Secretary working on human resources, she understands the personnel challenges facing the Department. Last but not least, Ambassador Bernicat was born in the great State of New Jersey.

In short, Ambassador Bernicat is without a doubt the right person for this position. It is unacceptable that someone as qualified as her has been languishing on the Senate floor for more than 7 months. Her nomination comes at a critical time as the Department needs leadership that will address key issues like attrition, training, morale, and mental health. We need our best people in position to ensure we are recruiting, retaining, promoting, and training the next generation of leaders. It is long past time to confirm Ambassador Bernicat.

I enthusiastically support Ambassador Bernicat, and I respectfully urge my colleagues to join me in confirming her immediately.

VOTE ON THE BERNICAT NOMINATION

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. 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 Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN).

The result was announced—yeas 82, nays 10, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 212 Ex.]

YEAS—82

Baldwin	Hagerty	Reed
Barrasso	Hassan	Risch
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blunt	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Hoeven	Rubio
Brown	Inhofe	Sasse
Burr	Johnson	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	Kennedy	Sinema
Carper	King	Smith
Casey	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Collins	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Luján	Thune
Cornyn	Lummis	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Toomey
Crapo	Markey	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Warner
Duckworth	McConnell	Warnock
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Ernst	Moran	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wicker
Fischer	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Young
Graham	Padilla	
Grassley	Peters	

NAYS—10

Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Braun	Lee	Shelby
Cotton	Paul	
Hawley	Scott (FL)	

NOT VOTING—8

Blackburn	Merkley	Sanders
Cramer	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Cruz	Portman	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY).

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Maine.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I will speak for about 5 minutes or so, if that is OK.

As we depart for our Memorial Day recess and the unofficial beginning of summer, many of us in political life will go to events honoring America's fallen heroes who have died in service of our Nation.

Memorial Day is different from Veterans Day. On Veterans Day, we celebrate all those who serve. On Memorial Day, we have somber remembrance for those who failed to make it home.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans, men and women from all different backgrounds, have died on foreign battlefields in the name of freedom and protecting our homeland. This is the one day that we set aside each year to remember them.

I will do my best to rededicate myself to being a better American, appreciating the freedoms I have, and trying to find a way forward for our Nation as a whole. So that is what this holiday week is about.

UKRAINE

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, before we leave Washington, I want to make a few comments about the war in Ukraine.

Our allies in Ukraine are fighting like tigers against a Russian invasion that is without foundation, that is illegal under international law and is one of the most brutal acts of war in the 21st century—maybe in any century.

I just want to let the Ukrainian people know that the American people are with you in your struggle for freedom.

There have been some comments made by folks whom I respect talking about the need to end this war, where Ukraine has to recognize certain parts of their territory as actually Russian territory. I cannot disagree more. Any effort to impose upon Ukraine a ceasefire that leads to a peace agreement where they have to give territory to Russia is not ending a war; it will be starting new wars.

Have we learned nothing from the last century? Appeasing Putin in Ukraine makes him want more, not less. We found that to be true in the 1930s with Hitler in Germany.

So this idea that Ukraine needs to come to the table and give up Ukrainian land to Putin makes zero sense to me. All the people who have been fighting in Ukraine would have died in vain. And that line of reasoning I reject completely.

Here is the state of play: Due to the commitment of the Ukrainian people to fight for their freedom and their homeland, Russia has just been delivered a mighty blow. Their army is in decline. They just changed their laws so that the limitation on service from 18 to 40 now has been lifted. There was a 63-year-old retired general fighter pilot shot down in Ukraine, a Russian general. All I can say is that the Ukrainians have met their end of the bargain.

This body, expressing the will of the American people, passed a $40 billion aid package. That is a lot of money, but you either pay now or later when it comes to Putin. I am convinced, along with most of my colleagues here, that if Putin is successful in Ukraine, he only goes further; he never stops. His words, not mine—he wants to reconstruct the Soviet Union, the Russian Empire, whatever you would like to call it. There are other nations in his crosshairs.

So the battle in Ukraine will stabilize Europe if it is done right. If the battle in Ukraine ends where Putin feels like he got away with mass war crimes and was able to get territory by force of arms, he will not stop. China will, surely as I am speaking, have a green light to go into Taiwan.

So those who argue that we need to end this war by giving Ukrainian territory to Putin, you are starting another war in Asia, most likely. You are going to create a larger appetite for Putin, and I think you have lost the lessons of the last century.

We have much to understand about the nature of this war. We have Russian diplomats resigning in protest. We have people at concerts shouting some pretty vulgar things about the war. You have a Russian military that is under siege in terms of manning. The more weapons we provide to the Ukrainians, the more lethal they become on the battlefield, the more likely this war ends on favorable terms.

So I just want to remind the American people as we go into this holiday, remember those who sacrificed for our freedom. There is a hot war in Europe.

It is 2022. Did anybody really believe after the fall of the Berlin Wall that we would be having a war with Russia in Europe trying to take over a sovereign country called Ukraine? Well, that is where we are, and I guess one thing to learn about mankind is that the calendar may change, but there is a dark side of mankind—powerful people trying to push the less powerful around; people trying to take things through force of arms rather than the rule of law.

So I want the Ukrainian people to know that I am with you. I think most Americans are with you. We don't want you to entice Putin to go beyond Ukraine by surrendering your territory. We stand with you. Not 1 inch of Ukrainian territory should be given to Putin because he chose force of arms. The rule of law versus the rule of guns is at stake. I am hoping that we will send you more lethal weapons, not less, that we will increase your capability to inflict pain on the Russian military.

I do believe that people in Russia are beginning to understand that, with Putin, they have a very limited future; that if you continue to support Putin, the world will isolate you further; that we are not going to forgive and forget the war crimes.

NATO is getting bigger. Finland and Sweden have applied to NATO. I have talked to our friends in Turkey. I hope we can resolve that.

So it would be wonderful in the next coming weeks here that the Senate, in fast fashion, could include two more members of NATO; that everything Putin wanted has backfired; that the Ukrainian nation still stands; that NATO is bigger not smaller; that war crimes investigations move forward, they don't stall.

In the International Criminal Court, Mr. Khan is doing a good job of gathering evidence against Russian atrocities committed by Russian military leaders and Russian forces, all under the control of Putin, and I just encourage that effort to go further. Ukrainian courts have convicted a Russian soldier of murder, a war crime.

So what I would like to see is the Western world, the democratic world, reinforce our commitment to Ukraine, not talk about having to give Putin territory to end this war, because that is not the way to end the war; that is a way to expand the war.

If we can end this through diplomatic means, great, but what should be off the table is rewarding Putin for this invasion. What should be on the table is a commitment to Ukraine. As long as they are willing to fight, as long as they are willing to fight for their freedom and die for their territory, we should help them, because Putin won't stop with Ukraine if he is successful.

The blood and treasure that we have spent since 9/11 has been tough for our country, but not one American soldier is on the ground in Ukraine. They are not asking for soldiers; they are only asking for the ability to defend themselves—economic assistance, military assistance.

I do not want to let the pressure off Putin. Senator RISCH and Senator MENENDEZ—the chairman, Senator MENENDEZ, of the Foreign Relations

Committee—are considering marking up legislation urging the Biden administration to designate Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism. So let's keep the pressure on Putin. Let's let the Russian people know that, as long as Putin is your leader, you will be isolated from the international community, your economy can't grow, and there are going to be more and more young Russians killed in this folly.

I would urge the Russian people to change course here. Pick a new leader. The world will embrace Russia. Russia is a land of many talented people, with a long rich history.

I am hoping and praying that the freedom-loving world will not make the mistakes in 2022 that we made in 1932, that we made in 1937 and 1938 where we thought the way to end the war was to appease a brutal dictator. That is not the way to end a war; that is the way to continue wars and make them bigger.

So, as for me, I will do everything in my power to help the Ukrainian people as a Member of the U.S. Senate. I will do everything in my power to hold Putin accountable. I will do everything in my power, working with my Democratic and Republican colleagues, to isolate Putin's Russia.

This is a difficult time for the world. If he fails in Ukraine, if the Russian people rise up and change course, the world will be a lot better off. If he succeeds, God help us all because the worst is yet to come.

No problem here at home gets better by turning our back on Ukraine and not holding Putin accountable. Whatever problems we have at the border, with inflation, gas prices, all the domestic violence here at home, none of those problems get better if Putin wins in Ukraine.

Here is the good news for the American people: The Ukrainian people are not asking for our young men and women to fight and die in Ukraine; they are only asking for our help. They need arms. They need weapons. They need economic assistance. If we will continue to show our resolve—the Western world—Putin will lose and the people of Ukraine will win. Now is not the time to put on the table capitulation.

So to everybody, I hope you have a safe Memorial Day. I look forward to coming back after the break to see if we can find a pathway forward on commonsense gun reforms. Between now and then, let's keep the people of Ukraine in our prayers.

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.

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

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

ENERGY

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor to talk about developments this week in trying to fight to make sure that American consumers aren't paying artificially more for gas to fill up their cars and trucks and take a vacation for the holiday than they should be paying.

This is an important issue for everybody in the United States but particularly my constituents, who all throughout the State of Washington are paying—well, Seattle, definitely over $5, and many other parts of the State over $5. And if you are not paying more than $5 a gallon, you are paying very close to $5 a gallon. So it is important that Members of Congress do their job in oversight and policing of these markets to make sure that there is transparency; that is, a bright light to make sure that no one is taking advantage during this tight supply and artificially driving up that price for their benefit.

That is why we introduced the Transportation Fuel Market Transparency Act that asked the Federal Trade Commission to expand on authority Congress already gave to them to police transportation petroleum markets and make sure that the trading that is done on indexes that have very little oversight—very little oversight—that those indexes have a brighter light shined on them so that we make sure consumers aren't being gouged because of the kinds of practices that happen.

Well, lo and behold, just this Tuesday, the Federal Government and the Department of Justice and the CFTC—the Commodities Futures Trading Commission—basically gave a statement on the largest settlement in history, a civil monetary penalty and disgorgement exceeding $1.1 billion on Glencore, one of the largest commodity trading firms.

It is a major participant in the global, physical oil and oil derivatives market, and for more than a decade, it engaged in a wide-ranging scheme to manipulate oil markets—schemes to defraud other market participants by manipulating the information going to financial markets, schemes that created artificially high benchmarks so that Glencore's derivatives and physical positions would settle or price at levels more favorable to the company.

(Ms. CORTEZ MASTO assumed the Chair.)

These were some of the same practices that are were uncovered during the Enron scheme. I know the Presiding Officer knows because she comes from the State of Nevada, and two of the areas most hard hit by the electricity crisis were the State of Washington and the State of Nevada. Why? Because people wanted us to continue to pay on fraudulent electricity pricing.

That is why we fought, along with the Presiding Officer's predecessor and others, to make sure that electricity markets were properly policed for any kind of manipulative practices.

I am very proud that we authored legislation after that scandal that really has given the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission the tools it needed on electricity and natural gas.

They, to this date, since 2007, have used that authority to police electricity and natural gas and have had over a $1 billion of fines and settlements against companies and their bad practices.

These are the same sort of practices that we are uncovering now in the commodities market and on oil market manipulation.

I know my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would like to pretend that this issue doesn't exist. I ask them, go home and face your constituents and tell them you voted to do nothing—nothing—to bring more transparency into the gas markets that are affecting them today and see what their reaction is. I guarantee you they are paying too much at the pump, and they want to know that we are properly policing these markets.

They get the dilemma that we are in, particularly given Russia and Ukraine. They get the issues of a changing economy coming out of COVID. But they are madder than heck when they read about some company that has been doing this practice for decades and basically making money off of the back of their hard earnings.

Consumers could pay as much as $1,000 more for gas this year. They want to know why. This company raked in over $320 million in improper gains. And while some of the record settlement involved penalties for bribes and kickbacks in foreign countries, the company agreed to pay $485 million in settlements for criminal and civil investigations for various fuel oil prices.

Various fuel oil products that were manipulated and impacted included Los Angeles and their Bunker Fuel Oil, New York Harbor Low Sulfur Fuel Oil, New York Harbor High Sulfur Fuel, and U.S. Gulf Coast High Sulfur Fuel Oil.

I am not sure how much consumers ended up getting fleeced, but it is clear that at least hundreds of millions of dollars impacted these markets.

And as the Presiding Officer knows, because she has been the chief law enforcement for her State, if you don't have a policeman on the beat policing these markets, more of these fraudulent activities will exist.

After the derivative crisis, I also made sure that anti-manipulation authority went to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. When we called recently to ask about their use of this authority, they told us they had put fines and penalties against companies at over $4.5 billion. That was before Tuesday's announcement of clear oil market manipulation.

Some of my colleagues, as we push this transparency bill through the Commerce Committee, said: Why, if they caught some people on Tuesday,

do we need to mark something up on Wednesday? Well, the issue is that we were talking about the futures market. As I just read, these companies are very adept at manipulating the futures market and the physical market to get their best gain. We are asking our colleagues to vote for transparency in the physical market of indexes traded after the product is refined.

We know that there is a world oil price. We know that it is refined. But what we can't figure out is, after it is refined, why—particularly on the West Coast—is it at exorbitant rates, well over the national average and paying well over what we think market fundamentals determine?

We saw, at a hearing that we had before the Commerce Committee, energy experts testify that some of these fundamentals do not make sense; that something else is going on in the market. So why turn down the opportunity for us, as a Federal Government, to get more transparency in these energy markets? Why would anybody want to say that more transparency over these indexes is not a good idea?

Well, some of our colleagues—I am not sure, because they offered no substantive amendments to the legislation before us. In fact, those that were, what I would say, some improvements around the edges to the bill, we actually accepted in committee. The rest of the amendments offered were all about the issues and discussions of more supply, which were out of the jurisdiction of our committee, and I encouraged my colleagues to take them up on the Senate floor.

So no substantive changes were offered to this legislation. Nobody objected on the basis of the idea that transparency is a bad idea. And yet people are holding on to an idea that they don't want to answer about this issue of manipulation.

Trust me, I was shocked when I was elected to the U.S. Senate, before I was even sworn in, to find out that we were in an energy crisis; that somehow the price of electricity had gone from some of the cheapest in the United States to the most exorbitant price ever, 3,000 times the rate. I thought this couldn't possibly be a scheme. This couldn't possibly be something perpetrated because, obviously, we would catch that. Obviously, we have a policeman on the beat. Well, it turned out that the California market, what is called the ISO, really wasn't catching it, and there really was manipulation by Enron.

Enron manipulated the supply of electricity by cooking up various schemes to move supply out of California to create artificial shortages and then drive up the price of electricity. They had traders who lied on the phone to people buying long-term contracts, telling them: Buy the long-term contract because the price is going up. And an analyst saying to a trader, and the trader replying back: That is not true. And the analyst saying: Tell them anyway. That is the kind of thing that we need to police.

So I was shocked to find that one of my first tasks being a U.S. Senator was going to be to spend 2 years policing electricity just so my State and the State of Nevada would not pay on fraudulent contracts for more than a decade.

I guarantee you, not only would the lights in Vegas have gone out, but much of the Washington economy would have been affected.

This is so important now because these high gas prices are affecting every sector of transportation. It is affecting our airline economy. It is affecting our trucking economy. I have heard from our railroads on the diesel engine prices. It is affecting every part of our economy while we have to pay more.

And even if it is 50 cents—as one of the witnesses testified, it may be as much as 50 cents a gallon that is artificially being put onto the consumers—why would you not want to know the answer and simply give the Federal Trade Commission the authority to make sure that these markets are properly policed for unfair and deceptive practices?

I know my colleague who is presiding knows because we have even had suggestions from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that the practice is so bad among energy traders that we should consider legislation to ban energy traders who continue to perpetrate these schemes. That is right, they go from one company to another company. They know how the schemes work. They think it is just the price of doing business. Even if they get caught, they will just pay the fine, like Glencore is paying now.

If you think about it, this $1.1 billion is one of the largest oil market manipulation cases ever. People probably aren't hearing about it this week because of other stories that are in the news. But trust me, this kind of behavior needs to be rooted out.

So, Madam President, I hope that when my colleagues return, I hope that they will spend the recess asking their constituents whether they think there needs to be more transparency in oil markets. I will be very surprised if they don't say that something is going on, and we want to know what it is. That is because consumers have felt for a long time a disconnection between market fundamentals of supply and demand.

And, yes, there have been some changes in supply as it relates to what we are facing on an international basis. My constituents understand that. But we have always been an isolated market in the Pacific Northwest for refineries in my State, most of the supply coming from Alaska. And yet we pay the highest prices in the Nation. So our constituents want to know why.

My colleagues, Senator WYDEN, Senator FEINSTEIN, and I have prosecuted these issues. We have asked for more information and transparency. In both instances, when we were successful with electricity and natural gas, we did find behavior that needed to be rooted out. And here, we have proof now in this Glencore case that there is manipulation in oil markets. We are simply asking that, just don't leave it to the futures market, because if you want to give law enforcement, the Department of Justice, our attorneys general, others, the tools to root out bad behavior—even if it is 5 cents a gallon, it is worth fighting for. Even if it is a few cents more to uncover and drive down the cost, it is worth it to our constituents, who are paying exorbitant prices.

Let's make sure everybody understands in a tight supply, it is a lot easier to do manipulation, and that is why we need to get this done now.

I wish that the authority that we had given to the Federal Trade Commission on this issue in 2007 would have been used, but the point is, you actually have to have people and the information to prosecute these cases.

My colleagues at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission built such a unit. That unit, as I said, has been successful in monitoring electricity and natural gas. I hope that they will emulate what the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has done.

I am proud that the CFTC and our Attorney General, Merrick Garland, made this announcement on Tuesday of this unbelievable manipulation, of bribery, of schemes, of all of the work that goes behind the scenes for people to make billions of dollars of profits when we and our consumers are being gouged with extra prices.

Let's find the answers. Let's do something as basic as passing a law about transparency on a product—petroleum—that is so critical to our economy.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 477.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Alex Wagner, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 477, Alex

Wagner, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

Charles E. Schumer, Tina Smith, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mark Kelly, Richard J. Durbin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Angus S. King, Jr., Patrick J. Leahy, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Gary C. Peters, Chris Van Hollen, Edward J. Markey, Jeanne Shaheen, Jack Reed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

The motion was agreed to.

HONORING OUR PROMISE TO ADDRESS COMPREHENSIVE TOXICS ACT OF 2021—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 388, H.R. 3967.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 388, H.R. 3967, a bill to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 388, H.R. 3967, a bill to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Jon Tester, Benjamin L. Cardin, John W. Hickenlooper, Richard Blumenthal, Jack Reed, Bernard Sanders, Brian Schatz, Tim Kaine, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Martin Heinrich, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Kyrsten Sinema, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, May 26, be waived.

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

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. 707, 743, 769, 964, 894, 895, 905, and 906; 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; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the Record; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the en bloc nominations of Steven Scott Cliff, of California, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; Andrew Fois, of the District of Columbia, to be Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States for a term of five years; Christopher A. Coes, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation; Benny R. Wagner, of Tennessee, to be Inspector General of the Tennessee Valley Authority; Denis Udall, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring April 15, 2023; Teresa Arrington Fox Udall, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2022; Denis Udall, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring April 15, 2029. (Reappointment); and Teresa Arrington Fox Udall, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2028. (Reappointment)?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 927 through 963 and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. John P. Cogbill
Col. Geoffrey A. Norman
Col. Samuel L. Peterson

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Craig S. Gatzemeyer

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grate indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Robert B. Brodie
Col. Michael A. Brooks, Jr.
Col. Kevin G. Collins
Col. Fridrik Fridriksson
Col. Maura M. Hennigan
Col. Garrett R. Hoffman
Col. Stephen J. Lightfoot
Col. Andrew T. Priddy
Col. James A. Ryans, II
Col. David C. Walsh

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Milford H. Beagle, Jr.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen John D. Lamontagne

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Leonard J. Kosinski

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Steven L. Basham

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Brig. Gen Caroline M. Miller

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C. section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Timothy D. Haugh

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C. section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. John P. Sullivan

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Chief of Naval Operations and appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8035:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. Lisa M. Franchetti

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Craig A. Clapperton

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Naval Personnel and appointment in the United States Navy to the grade of vice admiral while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8081:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Richard J. Cheeseman, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601, and for appointment as a Senior Member of the Military Staff Committee of the United Nations under title 10, U.S.C., section 711:

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. Stephen T. Koehler

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Sara A. Joyner

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., Section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Andrea D. Tullos

IN THE SPACE FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Space Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C.,, section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Robert J. Hutt
Col. Anthony J. Mastalir
Col. Jacob Middleton, Jr.
Col. Kristen L. Panzenhagen
Col. Brian D. Sidari

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 major general

Brig. Gen. James J. Kokaska, Jr.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Gregory M. Guillot

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Alexus G. Grynkewich

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Richard G. Moore, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Michael J. Schmidt

The following named officer for appointment as Judge Advocate General of the Air Force and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while serving in that position in accordance with title 10, U.S.C., sections 6010 and 9037:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Charles L. Plummer

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Steven W. Gilland

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Omar J. Jones, IV

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. James B. Jarrard

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Kevin Vereen

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade idicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Brian W. Cavanaugh

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Navy while serving as Chief Prosecutor for Military Commissions under article II, seftion 2, clause 2 of the United States Constitution and section 1037 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Aaron C. Rugh

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Frank M. Bradley

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.ction 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Michael E. Boyle

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Jeremiah J. Cruz

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Jason B. Nicholson
Col. Patrick A. Teague

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Roger S. Giraud
Col. Lance C. Raney

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Gail E. Atkins
Col. Amanda I. Azubuike
Col. Phillip C. Baker
Col. Wayne E. Barker
Col. Maurice 0. Barnett
Col. Matthew W. Brown
Col. Jonathan C. Byrom
Col. Steven P. Carpenter
Col. Rhett R. Cox
Col. Frederick L. Crist
Col. Dale S. Crockett
Col. Jason A. Curl
Col. Sean P. Davis
Col. James K. Dooghan
Col. Antoinette R. Gant
Col. Bernard J. Harrington
Col. Daniel H. Hibner
Col. Gregory S. Johnson
Col. Martine S. Kidd
Col. Joseph G. Lock
Col. Francisco J. Lozano
Col. John W. Lubas
Col. Shane P. Morgan
Col. Kimberly A. Peeples
Col. Christopher D. Schneider
Col. Michael J. Simmering
Col. Jason C. Slider
Col. Marne L. Sutten
Col. Geoffrey R. Vanepps
Col. Brian D. Vile

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Paula C. Lodi

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Michael S. Cederholm

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1987 AIR FORCE nomination of Even Thomas Rogers, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2022.

PN2002 AIR FORCE nomination of Justine E. Feaster, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2022.

PN2023 AIR FORCE nomination of Joshua J. Kim, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 2, 2022.

PN2024 AIR FORCE nomination of Guilene C. Derisma, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 2, 2022.

PN2025 AIR FORCE nomination of Benjamin M. Pancoast, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 2, 2022.

PN2059 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning JONATHON B. HABA, and ending ROBERT C. LIVINGSTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 5, 2022.

PN2060 AIR FORCE nomination of Ronald Hustwit, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 5, 2022.

PN2098 AIR FORCE nominations (420) beginning THOMAS E. ACCUOSTI, and ending SEAN L. ZOUFALY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 12, 2022.

PN2099 AIR FORCE nominations (79) beginning DANIEL STEPHEN ADAMS, and ending SPENCER G. WOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 12, 2022.

PN2100 AIR FORCE nominations (211) beginning CODY L. ADKINS, and ending HONGHAO WU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 12, 2022.

PN2101 AIR FORCE nominations (1089) beginning MONICA C. ABONGAN, and ending ALEXIS B. ZUNIGA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 12, 2022.

PN2102 AIR FORCE nominations (385) beginning ZAHI Y. ABI CHAKER, and ending MATTHEW T. ZETTLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 12, 2022.

PN2103 AIR FORCE nominations (48) beginning ABIGAIL M. AKYEAMPONG, and ending NICHOLE L. YANG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 12, 2022.

PN2104 AIR FORCE nominations (165) beginning MYRON G. ACOSTA, and ending MOSHOOD A. YINUSA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 12, 2022.

PN2106 AIR FORCE nominations (25) beginning MEGAN E. ANDERSON, and ending BENJAMIN J. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 12, 2022.

PN2108 AIR FORCE nominations (139) beginning ARIF NASIR ALI, and ending JOHN THOMAS ZUPANCIC, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 12, 2022.

PN2109 AIR FORCE nominations (227) beginning TIMOTHY M. AANERUD, and ending KRISTEN M. ZEIGLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 12, 2022.

IN THE ARMY

PN1462 ARMY nomination of Larry J. Saunders, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 7, 2021.

PN1988 ARMY nomination of Daphne C. Mitchell Wright, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2022.

PN1989 ARMY nomination of Devanie N. Johnson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2022.

PN1990 ARMY nomination of Ralph C. Merrill, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2022.

PN1991 ARMY nomination of Jason S. Wenger, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2022.

PN1992 ARMY nomination of Matthew T. Etheridge, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2022.

PN1993 ARMY nomination of David S. Yu, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2022.

PN1994 ARMY nomination of Victor F. Sorano, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2022.

PN1995 ARMY nomination of Laura A. Proffit, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2022.

PN1996 ARMY nomination of D011783, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2022.

PN2003 ARMY nomination of Joseph F. Capetillo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2022.

PN2004 ARMY nomination of Joseph T. Reuben, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2022.

PN2005 ARMY nomination of Lyman S. Reynoldson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2022.

PN2006 ARMY nominations (6) beginning MARK J. BROOKS, and ending HAROLD G. WOOMER, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2022.

PN2007 ARMY nomination of Brian R. Seidel, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2022.

PN2008 ARMY nominations (9) beginning STEVE BLACKWELL, and ending KEVIN J. PARK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2022.

PN2009 ARMY nomination of Wayne A. Dunlap, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2022.

PN2010 ARMY nomination of Brian M. Stieritz, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2022.

PN2011 ARMY nomination of David C. Hilling, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2022.

PN2012 ARMY nomination of Christopher R. Thielenhaus, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2022.

PN2026 ARMY nominations (45) beginning VALERIA A. ANDERSON, and ending MELVILLE C. WILSON, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 2, 2022.

PN2027 ARMY nominations (250) beginning GLENN P. ADAMS, and ending ROBERT ZIZOLFO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 2, 2022.

PN2028 ARMY nominations (130) beginning TODD W. ATKINSON, and ending GEORGE E. ZUNIGA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 2, 2022.

PN2030 ARMY nomination of RJ X. Niesen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 2, 2022.

PN2031 ARMY nomination of Robert A. Kearney, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 2, 2022.

PN2032 ARMY nomination of Brandon S. Fletcher, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 2, 2022.

PN2033 ARMY nomination of Daniel S. Rhoades, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 2, 2022.

PN2035 ARMY nomination of Kirk J. Porter, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 2, 2022.

PN2036 ARMY nomination of John A. Mailman, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 2, 2022.

PN1746 MARINE CORPS nominations (28) beginning MABEL L. BALDUF, and ending JIMMY J. WILSON, which nominations were received by the at Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 31, 2022.

PN1649 NAVY nomination of Scott T. Wilbur, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 5, 2022.

PN1650 NAVY nomination of Ritchie L. Taylor, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 5, 2022.

PN1858 NAVY nomination of Neil Jain, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 10, 2022.

PN1997 NAVY nomination of Scott C. DeMarco, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2022.

PN1998 NAVY nomination of David D. Novotney, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2022.

PN2013 NAVY nomination of Elizabeth C. Merrell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2022.

PN2014 NAVY nomination of Thomas M. Allen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2022.

PN2015 NAVY nomination of Coby S. Croft, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2022.

PN2016 NAVY nomination of Leonard E. Haynes, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2022.

PN2017 NAVY nomination of John P. Thompson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2022.

PN2018 NAVY nominations (2) beginning RYAN M. FITZGERALD, and ending MATTHEW C. WELCH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2022.

PN2038 NAVY nomination of Andrew E. Hinkley, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 2, 2022.

PN2039 NAVY nomination of Thomas H. Wright, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 2, 2022.

PN2040 NAVY nomination of Robert D. Croxson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 2, 2022.

PN2061 NAVY nominations (21) beginning GREGORY J. ANDREWS, and ending KATHLEEN T. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 5, 2022.

PN2041 SPACE FORCE nominations (4) beginning KEITH M. MORRIS, and ending KEITH J. LASHOMB, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 2, 2022.

PN2042 SPACE FORCE nominations (5) beginning JAMES D. BROOKS, and ending MAHESA B. SUPROBO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 2, 2022.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

ROBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, another mass shooting, another elementary school; 19 children, ages 7 through 10, gunned down; two adults killed. They were in our schools—an elementary school, a place that parents send their children expecting it to be a safe zone where they can learn and interact with other children and be safe from things like being attacked and shot. An elementary school we are talking about, the anguish of the families who have lost their children or lost their loved ones.

Children who witnessed this will be traumatized for life, scarred by what happened in Texas.

And then last week, we saw in Buffalo 10 people gunned down while shopping in a grocery store, very much racially motivated by a White supremacist. This is happening throughout our country.

We have had gun violence in Baltimore. A few years ago, we had gun violence at Great Oaks School in Maryland. We are seeing this happen over and over and over again.

I and all Marylanders and Americans are sad. We are angry; we are fearful; and we are frustrated. Yes, we have to deal with the mental health issues here; there is no question about that in my mind. Let me just point out for my colleagues that I join with Senator WYDEN and Senator CRAPO and Senator THUNE in releasing the draft on the telehealth recommendations as part of the mental health work that is being done by the Senate Finance Committee. Our Presiding Officer has been one of the leaders on this issue. We recognize we have to do more for mental health.

Our draft discussion documents are dealing with telehealth. We really learned during COVID–19 how valuable telehealth is for access to care. Individuals who could not get to their healthcare providers were able to do that through telehealth services. We also recognize how valuable telehealth services are in regard to mental health and behavioral health. It was gaining access that could have been denied before. This is all-important that we move forward on these recommendations. And we are looking at ways that we remove obstacles in the way for people in our community to be able to get telehealth services, removing some of the restrictions of the law prior to COVID–19 to make it easier not only for public insurance programs but private insurance programs to provide for telehealth.

By the way, as you know, we have other task forces that are working in regard to children's mental health needs. All of that is important. We need to move forward on extending the resources and access to mental health services so we can identify people in need, give them the services they need, and protect our communities.

But we need to do much more than mental health services in regard to protecting Americans from gun violence. Let me quote from the Baltimore Sun's editorial this morning. It is titled ''Real Insanity Is Doing Nothing About Assault Weapons Again.''

> The terrible tragedy raises all kinds of questions from the mental health of the killer, the inadequacy of community-based psychiatric care and the bullying by classmates that might have contributed to his instability to the failure of those around him to recognize this potential threat. But one element stands out above so many others: easy access to assault weapons.

This editorial was clearly done, I should have mentioned, with the Texas tragedy that occurred this week.

The United States is an outlier among the nations of the world. We stand alone on the number of guns we have per capita and amount of gun violence. That is not a category that we want to lead the world in, and we do. We have to take action. In 2021 alone, 45,000 Americans lost their life through gun violence. Of that number, over 20,000 were killed as a result of murder or homicide—20,000. Over 300 children lost their lives through gun violence in 2021.

As the Washington Post editorial noted in yesterday's editorial, the elementary school shooting in Texas was ''one of at least 24 acts of gun violence of K–12 campuses so far this year in which at least 28 people have been killed . . . [this] came a day after a FBI report showing a sharp increase last year in active-shooter attacks nationwide. In 2020, for the first time, firearms became the leading cause of death for American children and teenagers, supplanting car accidents.''

We lost our way. We need to do much more. How many children have to die before we act? When is enough enough? Congress needs to take up and pass commonsense gun safety legislation.

I am going to give a few examples of legislation I hope we can take up and consider. First, the Assault Weapons Ban Act. Ban the sale. We have legislation, S. 736, that bans the sale, manufacture, transfer, and importation of assault weapons, including military-style weapons.

The Baltimore Sun also talked about this. This is the Sunday paper's editorial:

> These are not components one needs in self-defense, not the essentials required for target practice [or] local shooting range, not an asset [that] the average deer hunter [needs]. They are, however, the common tools of mass shooters. It's been estimated that about one-quarter of such incidents have involved individuals armed with assault weapons.

The public does not need assault weapons for self-defense. They don't need it for recreational use. They don't need it. These are military-style weapons and should have no place in private ownership. We should take action in order to make our communities safer and our children safer. We should pass the Bipartisan Background Check Expansion Act, which would require checks for all gun sales, including those from unlicensed sellers. By the way, the House has already passed this action.

And we should pass the Enhanced Background Check Completion Act. That is an act that would eliminate the so-called Charleston loophole that allows for gun sales to go forward if a check is not completed within 3 days, which is an unrealistic requirement that we have.

These are just commonsense gun safety bills that could be passed. We should pass the Keep Americans Safe Act, S. 1108, which would prohibit importation, sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession of magazines that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition. Why does anyone, for a lawful purpose, need an ammunition magazine that holds more than 10 rounds? The mass killers use it. We shouldn't make it easier for them to carry out these atrocities.

Let me just mention the one option that should not be on the table, and that option is to do nothing. How many children have to die before enough is enough? Doing nothing about the epidemic of guns across this country is killing our children. We must work together to translate our grief into collective action. Enough is enough. Let us act.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO MIKE LIVINGSTON AND GERTRUDE SVARNY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, it is Thursday, and it is the time of the week that I like to celebrate an amazing person or people in my State who are doing something great for Alaska, great for America, great for the world. It is someone I like to refer to as our Alaskan of the Week—or Alaskans of the Week, plural.

So we are doubling up this week because we have two Alaskans that we are going to be commemorating. And I want to acknowledge it has been a couple of rough weeks for America—we all know that—for reasons that are quite obvious. Some tempers here in the Senate have been flaring a little bit. So I wanted to end the week on what is really an incredible, uplifting story, an epic story. It is a bit complicated, so you have to pay attention if you are wanting to hear about just a remarkable course of events in Alaska.

And it is a particularly poignant story as we head into Memorial Day weekend, a time when we honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. And I am going to tell, as I mentioned, a very special Memorial Day story—a

complicated one, but one for the history books.

This story has twists and turns, dark spots, highlights, and literally a Hollywood ending, one that involves a hero who gave his life for America, what we are celebrating on Monday, but whose heroism and service was only recently acknowledged and even only recently remembered.

So, first, I am going to begin the story about a young man who made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation, an Alaskan native, an indigenous man from Unalaska—Private George Fox.

Now, Private George Fox is not our Alaskan of the Week, but the whole story that I am going to tell revolves around Private George Fox, who was killed in action fighting Nazis in World War II in Italy in 1944 and, since 1949, was buried on the island of Unalaska—that is out on the Aleutian island chain in Alaska, the islands way out that go out towards Japan. But he was buried in an unmarked grave and essentially forgotten—no record of military service, no awards for heroism, nothing, forgotten by literally almost everybody but one person, for nearly 80 years.

I am also going to talk about two very special people who are our Alaskans of the Week; that is Mike Livingston and Gertrude Svarny, who worked over the years to make sure that Private George Fox's exceptional service is finally going to be officially recognized. And that will happen Monday, on Memorial Day on the island of Unalaska in the Aleutian Island chains back home in Alaska in a ceremony that will take place on Monday.

So, as you can tell, this is actually a story of three people: one of them a young soldier killed in action for our country in World War II; one of them a still-living 90-year-old woman, a childhood friend of the young soldier, one of our Alaskans of the Week, Gertrude; another, a man on a mission, a detective with a public servant's heart.

It is a story of the invasion of the United States by the Japanese. Many Americans don't know that Japan invaded parts of Alaska. It is a story of racism, discrimination, service, honor, heroism. It is the story of how two people worked to keep history alive and to honor another who was forgotten for his heroism fighting and dying for our country.

It is an epic of Alaska—an epic of Alaska—fitting to be memorialized here on the U.S. Senate floor, and, more importantly, memorialized Monday when we honor our veterans and those who died in the service of our country.

So, it is a little complicated, but bear with me. Let me start this remarkable story in a remarkable place.

This is Unalaska on the Aleutian Island chain. So if you are looking at a map of Alaska, the Aleutian Islands go way out west, actually the Aleutian Islands cross the international date line, way further west than Hawaii. The Aleutian Island chain of Unalaska is a beautiful island about 800 miles southwest of Anchorage in the Bering Sea. It is home to walruses and sea lions; tens of millions of birds migrate through the area.

Right now, it is the largest fishing port in the country, and it is home to an incredible group of patriotic people, the Unangan native people, living in an area steeped in fascinating and sometimes very tragic history.

So here is a short version of that history. First, when Alaska was a colonial possession of Russia, Russian fur seekers decimated the Aleuts, the native populations on these islands, through warfare, disease, even slavery.

Then, 75 years after the United States purchased Alaska from Russia, during World War II, Japan actually bombed Unalaska, June 3 and 4, almost 80 years ago today.

Then the Japanese invaded and occupied nearby islands on Alaska's Aleutian Island chain. Many Americans don't know that history.

The United States—Alaska—was actually occupied by our enemy, Imperial Japan. Eventually, American forces had to drive out the Japanese in a brutal campaign on the Aleutian Islands area. About 1,500 American servicemembers were killed in those battles, 600 missing, and almost 3,500 wounded in action.

So that is some of the history of Unalaska and the Aleutian Islands chain during World War II.

So, George Fox—at about the same time the Japanese were literally bombing his hometown of Unalaska in 1942, George Fox had volunteered as a patriotic young American Alaska Native to fight for his country and was sent to the other side of the world—Europe, North Africa.

Now, we don't know a lot about Private Fox's service, but because of the work of Mike Livingston, our other Alaskan of the Week, who is alive and doing great, we do have some basic information.

Here is some of what we know about Private George Fox. He was born January 20, 1920, in Unalaska—again, the Aleutian island that we are taking about on the Aleutian Islands chain. When he was 22 years old, like so many patriotic Alaska Natives, he signed up to serve his country in World War II.

By the way, it should be noted and cannot be overstated that throughout history, even though so many Alaska Natives were discriminated against—and still are in some ways—Alaska Natives, certainly in Unalaska but all throughout the whole State, have served at higher rates in the military than any other ethnic group in the country—incredible patriotic service.

So Private George Fox from Unalaska goes to war for his country in World War II. At the same time, his hometown is being bombed by the Japanese. He was assigned to Company G in the 179th Infantry Regiment of the 45th Infantry Division. His unit was first sent to fight the Axis Powers in North Africa, then to Italy, where he landed in Italy on Anzio Beach—a very famous battle—to fight the Germans in the famous Battle of Anzio, where roughly 7,000 Allied servicemembers were killed in action.

He survived that and fought his way heroically toward Rome, fighting the Nazis the whole way. Unfortunately, on June 1, 1944, a Nazi bomb exploded near him, and he was killed in action as a young American serving his country—killed in Italy.

He is the only known Alaska Unangan from his region to be killed in action during World War II.

So about 5 years later, after the war, his remains were removed from Italy and returned to Unalaska in 1949. We now know there was a small funeral at the Russian Orthodox church, where his ashes were buried next to his mom, but his grave was unmarked—unmarked—and it stayed unmarked for decades.

Now, that is what we know about Private Fox's military service, not much else. Why? Because there was a fire where all his military records were in the lower 48, and his service records were destroyed. So, frankly, his record in the military was essentially forgotten—forgotten.

Now, I think—you can't prove this, but the fact that he was Alaska Native—that there was probably some discrimination here, like, ''Hey, whatever, he is Alaska Native. We are not that worried.'' And so nobody in authority kept his memory alive, his service alive. It was all forgotten, that he was even a soldier.

So his memory and his service and his heroism—because these are serious battles in World War II—all faded almost completely to nothing, if it wasn't for our heroic Alaskans of the Week that we are recognizing today.

So enter our first Alaskan of the Week, Mike Livingston, also a Native Alaskan, Unangan, and he was determined to remember this vague memory of this guy he had heard about, Private George Fox.

Here is a little bit of Mike's story, which is another great story.

He was born in Cold Bay, AK, which is another island in the Aleutian Islands chain. He moved to Unalaska, the town we are talking about, in 1978, as a college student to learn the art of building traditional kayaks from the Native elders in the community, and he began to work as a public safety officer.

From then until 2003, when he retired, he was an emergency medical technician, a firefighter, a dive rescue specialist, a police officer, a detective in various places throughout Alaska, much of it in Anchorage at the Anchorage Police Department, and he is currently a captain with the Alaska State Defense Force.

Along the way—now, this guy is really impressive, what Mike did. He received a master's degree in anthropology and a doctorate in education,

all of which he uses as a specialist in his job, also at the Aleutian Pribilof Island Association, and he uses his education and skills also as a detective and fuels his passion for helping people help solve mysteries, particularly in his interest of genealogy and family trees that involve stories that are untold mysteries. A tree nut—a family tree nut—he calls himself, as do his group of friends who dig deep to solve puzzles, the kind of which involve people, historic places, lapses in historic knowledge that have faded into history, which is exactly what happened to Private George Fox.

Around 2005, Mike Livingston, our Alaskan of the Week, and his friends started to take on that mission. What happened to Private George Fox? They had heard about him—a fellow Alaska Native who they knew from stories was killed in action fighting somewhere in World War II—but they needed more information. Where was he buried? Nobody seemed to know. Why was he not listed as killed in action in service in World War II?

In the U.S. military, when a servicemember is killed in action, the survivors get benefits, and they are entitled to receive full military honors at funerals.

And in Mike's culture and in Private Fox's culture—the Unangan culture—when a warrior died protecting their village, statues were carved, songs were written and sung. It has always been a huge honor in the Native culture to be a fallen warrior, but Private George Fox got none of this from America, from his Federal Government, and even from the amazing Alaska Native people.

Mike Livingston, the detective with a servant's heart, wanted to right this wrong. He wanted to do it for Private Fox, for his community, for his people, for his State, for his country. So he got to work on this mystery. He began to dig deeper.

He called every Federal Agency he could think of to try to get more information about this mysterious Alaska Native whose memory had faded, whose heroism wasn't recognized. But Mike ran into brick wall after brick wall calling Federal Agencies. He was able to get a few tidbits, like the basic information mentioned above, and he also discovered that George Fox's remains were returned to Unalaska in 1949, but nothing else—little else.

The mystery of where those remains were—in a grave, an unmarked grave; where Private George Fox was buried—it haunted Mike Livingston.

As he said, ''When you compare some of what occurred during World War II, or shortly after World War II, people who were white were highly honored,'' he recently told a reporter, particularly if they were killed in action during the war—but not so for so many Alaska Natives.

Eventually, Mike heard that another resident on the island—now we are back on Unalaska—had a piece of the puzzle, a woman who happened to be related to Mike through marriage.

Enter our second Alaskan of the Week, 91-year-old artist Gertrude Svarny. Let me spend a few minutes talking about her incredible patriotic story.

Gertrude was born in 1930 on Unalaska, the island out in the Aleutian Islands chain, the island bombed by the Japanese. She was also Alaska Native.

Her family lived next to the Fox family. George Fox was about 8 years older than she was. George and Gertrude's older brother were good friends. So Gertrude remembers George. She said the whole island loved him. He was kind, funny, full of life, and obviously brave.

As I mentioned, in 1942, George Fox left to go fight World War II for our great Nation, right at the time George and Gertrude's village, Unalaska, was bombed by the Japanese.

And here is another story most Americans don't know about. After that happened, the U.S. Government took the Alaska Native people on the Aleutian Islands chain and put them into internment camps—not White people, only Alaska Native people.

The treatment of these great patriotic American citizens in these camps is a dark spot in American history that, as I mentioned, not many Americans are aware of. Camps were basically abandoned buildings. The conditions were awful—crowded, unheated, unsanitary. Many died in the camps as a result of these horrendous conditions.

Three years later, when the war was finally over, the people of Unalaska—the Native people of Unalaska—were allowed to go home to their community after being in these internment camps, but their homes were ransacked and burned. Many of their villages on the island were destroyed, another dark spot in our country's history.

Remember, these were our citizens, our country, and the Native people, if they weren't at home, many of them were fighting overseas in the Pacific and in Europe, like Private George Fox.

So Gertrude comes home from the internment camp. She is at Unalaska now, and she marries another patriot named Sam Svarny, her husband, who was in the Army, originally from Chicago, and he was stationed in Unalaska. Another patriot in this story, Sam served in World War II and later served in Vietnam.

Gertrude became an artist—a renowned artist in Alaska. She is actually very famous for her work that she makes out of traditional materials, and she is in collections all over the world.

And even though her childhood was marked by the wrongs inflicted on her family and her by her own country, she and her husband have remained fiercely patriotic. Even interment hasn't dissuaded the patriotism of the Alaska Native people. And one of the ways Gertrude displayed this patriotism, which still burns in her to this day—remember, she is 91 years old—was that every Memorial Day, they put flags on the grave sites on the island of Unalaska to those who served in the military.

Gertrude and her husband Sam always remembered when she was a young girl the small service that she had attended, a funeral service in 1949, of the young, spritely teenager George Fox, a friend of Gertrude's who died fighting the Nazis more than 5,000 miles away from Alaska in Italy.

The service was in the winter, she remembers. It was very cold. After the service, the small procession walked in the frigid winds to the cemetery where George Fox's mother was buried.

So, every year, this patriotic Alaska Native woman, for decades, has quietly visited the unmarked grave of Private George Fox to place a flag on this unmarked grave to remember his service, and that is the only living memory of what this young patriotic Alaska Native soldier did for his country.

When her husband Sam passed away in 2014, Gertrude continued this tradition even to this day, as I mentioned, at 91 years old. What a patriot.

So here is how it all comes together. When our detective, another Alaskan of the Week, Mike Livingston, finally learned that his own relative through marriage, Gertrude, actually knew where Private Fox was buried, he got to work. The mystery was coming together. He felt like he had enough information to make the official case to the U.S. Government to finally get Private George Fox, this American hero, recognized.

He wrote up an affidavit. Gertrude signed it, stating how she had been putting a flag on the unmarked grave site for decades. But still, request after request was ignored by the U.S. Government.

So what did they do, Mike and Gertrude? Well, to all Americans and Alaskans watching this, here is what they did. They called their U.S. Senator.

This was now in 2020, at the height of COVID. When my office heard about this, my former head of casework, Rachel Bylsma, got immediately onto the case. We all said that this is so important to make sure Private George Fox got the honor and recognition he deserved. So we worked together.

And I am proud to say, he is going to be getting that recognition. Here is what is going to happen on Unalaska in the Aleutian Island chain this Monday, 2022 Memorial Day for America: The top military officials in my State, so many members of Private George Fox's family, so many members of the community, myself, and my team are going to gather in Unalaska, and we are going to gather to honor a warrior, a hero, an Unangan Alaskan, an American, on Memorial Day.

Gertrude will be there, and Mike will be there, our two Alaskans of the Week. Hundreds of people will be there. There will be a procession from the

Russian Orthodox church to the cemetery, and we have now a beautiful 4-foot-high gravestone to be unveiled.

Taps will float from a bugle. There will be a 21-gun salute from the 4th Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division. And on Memorial Day in Unalaska, in the Bering Sea, the man who fought and died in World War II as a hero for his country in North Africa, in Italy on Anzio Beach, this American hero who has been forgotten will be recognized because of the work of so many but, in particular, the relentless work of our Alaskans of the Week Mike Livingston and Gertrude Svarny.

Private George Fox's service and sacrifice and heroism will finally be recognized on Memorial Day by our Government, and we will have a gravestone befitting of his incredible patriotic service.

On that gravestone, which I have seen—it is beautiful—at the bottom there will be engraved three words. These words came from George Fox to his family in his last letter that he wrote from Anzio Beach in a heroic battle a world away from Alaska when he was fighting to save the soul of the world from tyranny. There are three words in that letter—that are now on a gravestone—that meant so much then and, I would argue, mean so much now for our country to this very day. The three words on that headstone are ''Wish all love.'' ''Wish all love.'' The last words of a patriotic Alaska Native, sent home from Italy to his family, who on Memorial Day will finally be recognized due to the heroic, relentless hard work of our two Alaskans of the Week, Mike and Gertrude. Thank you for all you are doing, all you have done for your community, for your State, and for your country.

Thank you to George Fox's family and to Private George Fox for his incredible service.

I look forward to seeing you all in Unalaska in a few days. It is going to be a great ceremony. Congratulations on being our Alaskans of the Week as we head into Memorial Day weekend.

I yield the floor.

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

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

GAO DATABASE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2021

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 347, S. 629.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 629) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to require Federal agencies to submit to the Comptroller General of the United States a report on rules that are revoked, suspended, replaced, amended, or otherwise made ineffective.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 629

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 ''GAO Database Modernization Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. RULES NO LONGER IN EFFECT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 801(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(D) For any rule submitted under subparagraph (A), if the Federal agency promulgating the rule, in whole or in part, revokes, suspends, replaces, amends, or otherwise makes the rule ineffective, or the rule is made ineffective for any other reason, the Federal agency shall submit to the Comptroller General a report containing—

''(i) the title of the rule;

''(ii) the Federal Register citation for the rule, if any;

''(iii) the date on which rule was submitted to the Comptroller General; and

''(iv) a description of the provisions of the rule that are being revoked, suspended, replaced, amended, or otherwise made ineffective.''.

(b) SUNSET.—Effective on the date that is 6 years after the date of enactment of this Act, section 801(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraph (D), as added by subsection (a).

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 629), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

METROPOLITAN AREAS PROTECTION AND STANDARDIZATION ACT OF 2021

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 349, S. 1941.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1941) to direct the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to standardize the use of core-based statistical area designations across Federal programs, to allow between 120 and 180 days for public comment on any proposed change to such designations, and to report on the scientific basis and estimated impact to Federal programs for any proposed change to such designations, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Metropolitan Areas Protection and Standardization Act of 2021'' or the ''MAPS Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Federal programs use core-based statistical area delineations to determine the delivery of Federal services, benefits, and funding to people in the United States, such as in criteria for eligibility or distribution.

(2) Core-based statistical area delineations provide a nationally consistent set of standards for collecting, tabulating, and publishing Federal statistics for geographic areas, and they are not intended for any public or private sector non-statistical uses such as program administration or service delivery.

(3) Updates to core-based statistical area delineations may cause widespread disruption to the delivery of Federal services, benefits, and funding to people in the United States based on the reliance of Federal programs on these delineations.

(4) There does not exist any comprehensive list of Federal programs that rely on core-based statistical area delineations. Such a list is valuable for the study of how Federal services, benefits, and funding are distributed to people in the United States.

(5) Increased transparency on the impacts of any update to core-based statistical area delineations may be overly burdensome due to the anticipated variety of Federal programs that rely on these delineations. Any requirement for complete disclosure of these impacts prior to implementation of new delineations may unintentionally cause the existing delineations to ossify.

(6) In order to prevent any disruption to service delivery of Federal programs based on updates to core-based statistical area delineations, and ensure the independence of Federal statistical policymaking, Congress must sever the link between future updates to core-based statistical area delineations and any automatic impact on Federal programs that rely on these delineations.

SEC. 3. PURPOSE.

This purpose of this Act is to ensure—

(1) transparency in how core-based statistical area delineations are used in domestic assistance programs; and

(2) independence of the Office of Management and Budget in establishing and updating core-based statistical area delineations.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY.—The term ''agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The term ''Comptroller General'' means the Comptroller General of the United States.

(3) CORE-BASED STATISTICAL AREA.—The term ''core-based statistical area'' has the meaning given the term by the Office of Management and Budget in the Notice of Decision entitled ''2020

Standards for Delineating Core-Based Statistical Areas'', published in the Federal Register on July 16, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 37770), or any successor to that Notice.

(4) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(5) DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—The term ''domestic assistance program'' has the meaning given the term in section 6101 of title 31, United States Code.

(6) OPEN GOVERNMENT DATA ASSET.—The term ''open Government data asset'' has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

SEC. 5. NON-PROPAGATION OF CORE-BASED STATISTICAL AREA DELINEATIONS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 6309. Non-propagation of core-based statistical area delineations

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enactment of the MAPS Act of 2021, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, any change to the standards of core-based statistical area delineations pursuant to section 3504(e) of title 44—

''(1) shall not propagate automatically for any non-statistical use by any domestic assistance program, including any such use as required through—

''(A) statutory reference to any core-based statistical area delineation; or

''(B) administrative or regulatory reference to any core-based statistical area delineation; and

''(2) shall propagate for any non-statistical use by any domestic assistance program only—

''(A) if a relevant agency determines that such a propagation—

''(i) supports the purposes of the program; and

''(ii) is in the public interest; and

''(B) through affirmative adoption through notice-and-comment rulemaking pursuant to section 553 of title 5.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—The definitions in section 4 of the MAPS Act of 2021 shall apply to this section.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 6308 the following:

''6309. Non-propagation of core-based statistical area delineations.''.

SEC. 6. TRANSPARENCY OF NON-STATISTICAL USES OF CORE-BASED STATISTICAL AREA DELINEATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6102(a)(2) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (H);

(2) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

''(G) uses of core-based statistical area (as defined in section 4 of the MAPS Act of 2021) delineations (as chosen from standardized categories of uses determined by the Director), for purposes including prime recipient and subrecipient eligibility for, and distribution of, any Federal service, benefit, or funding; and''.

(b) CONTENT REQUIREMENTS.—In collecting and reviewing the information required under section 6102(a)(2)(G) of title 31, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, the Director shall include as standardized categories—

(1) whether the most current core-based statistical area delineation has been affirmatively adopted pursuant to section 6309 of title 31, United States Coded, as added by this Act;

(2) which historical core-based statistical area delineation was maintained, in cases where an updated delineation has not been affirmatively adopted pursuant to section 6309 of title 31, United States Coded, as added by this Act;

(3) what purpose the core-based statistical area delineation serves, including—

(A) to determine eligibility for any Federal service, benefit, or funding;

(B) to determine distribution of any Federal service, benefit, or funding; and

(C) any other standardized category of purpose determined by the Director;

(4) whether the use of core-based statistical area delineation directly concerns any—

(A) prime recipient of any Federal service, benefit, or funding; and

(B) subrecipient of any Federal service, benefit, or funding; and

(5) the date when the information collected in this subsection was last updated.

(c) ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—The Director shall ensure that the information collected and reviewed under section 6102(a)(2)(G) of title 31, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, shall be—

(1) publicly accessible as an open Government data asset;

(2) presented in a user-friendly visual format with search and download capabilities;

(3) easily discoverable by the public on relevant government websites; and

(4) updated not less frequently than once every year.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE.—The requirements of this section shall be fully implemented not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7. INDEPENDENCE, INTEGRITY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF CORE-BASED STATISTICAL AREA DELINEATIONS.

Section 3504(e) of title 44, United States Code, is amended by—

(1) in paragraph (8)(B)(ii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (9)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(10) ensure that any change to the standards of core-based statistical area (as defined in section 4 of the MAPS Act of 2021) delineations pursuant to this subsection shall—

''(A) be accompanied by a public report that explains—

''(i) the scientific basis, criteria, and methodology for such change to existing standards, including clear quantitative thresholds for determining any future statistical re-delineations; and

''(ii) the opinions of domestic and international experts in statistics and demographics, including government experts at the Bureau of the Census and other relevant agencies, who were consulted regarding such change to existing standards;

''(B) not be influenced by any non-statistical considerations such as impact on program administration or service delivery; and

''(C) not propagate automatically for any non-statistical use by any domestic assistance program (as defined in section 4 of the MAPS Act of 2021).''.

SEC. 8. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) assesses the completeness, timeliness, quality, accuracy, accessibility, and usefulness of the information reported pursuant to section 6 and the amendment made by section 6; and

(2) identifies any Federal programs, including any domestic assistance programs or other programs, that—

(A) use core-based statistical area delineations for any non-statistical purpose; and

(B) as of the date of the report, are not reported pursuant to section 6 and the amendment made by section 6; and

(3) if appropriate, includes any recommendations for Federal agencies or Congress based on the findings described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1941), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CUSTOMS TRADE PARTNERSHIP AGAINST TERRORISM PILOT PROGRAM ACT OF 2021

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 350, S. 2322.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2322) to require a pilot program on the participation of non-asset-based third-party logistics providers in the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism Pilot Program Act of 2021'' or the ''CTPAT Pilot Program Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

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

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

(2) CTPAT.—The term ''CTPAT'' means the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism established under subtitle B of title II of the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act (6 U.S.C. 961 et seq.).

SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM ON PARTICIPATION OF THIRD-PARTY LOGISTICS PROVIDERS IN CTPAT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall carry out a pilot program to assess whether allowing entities described in subsection (b) to participate in CTPAT would enhance port security, combat terrorism, prevent supply chain security breaches, or otherwise meet the goals of CTPAT.

(2) FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a notice specifying the requirements for the pilot program required by paragraph (1).

(b) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—An entity described in this subsection is—

(1) a non-asset-based third-party logistics provider that—

(A) arranges international transportation of freight and is licensed by the Department of Transportation; and

(B) meets such other requirements as the Secretary specifies in the Federal Register notice required by subsection (a)(2); or

(2) an asset-based third-party logistics provider that—

(A) facilitates cross border activity and is licensed or bonded by the Federal Maritime Commission, the Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or the Department of Transportation;

(B) manages and executes logistics services using its own warehousing assets and resources on behalf of its customers; and

(C) meets such other requirements as the Secretary specifies in the Federal Register notice required by subsection (a)(2).

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the pilot program required by subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall—

(1) ensure that—

(A) not more than 10 entities described in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) participate in the pilot program; and

(B) not more than 10 entities described in paragraph (2) of that subsection participate in the program;

(2) provide for the participation of those entities on a voluntary basis;

(3) continue the program for a period of not less than one year after the date on which the Secretary publishes the Federal Register notice required by subsection (a)(2); and

(4) terminate the pilot program not more than 5 years after that date.

(d) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the termination of the pilot program under subsection (c)(4), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the findings of, and any recommendations arising from, the pilot program concerning the participation in CTPAT of entities described in subsection (b), including an assessment of participation by those entities.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF CTPAT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report assessing the effectiveness of CTPAT.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An analysis of—

(A) security incidents in the cargo supply chain during the 5-year period preceding submission of the report that involved criminal activity, including drug trafficking, human smuggling, commercial fraud, or terrorist activity; and

(B) whether those incidents involved participants in CTPAT or entities not participating in CTPAT.

(2) An analysis of causes for the suspension or removal of entities from participating in CTPAT as a result of security incidents during that 5-year period.

(3) An analysis of the number of active CTPAT participants involved in one or more security incidents while maintaining their status as participants.

(4) Recommendations to the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection for improvements to CTPAT to improve prevention of security incidents in the cargo supply chain involving participants in CTPAT.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2322), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

VA ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2021

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4591 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4591) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress periodic reports on the costs, performance metrics, and outcomes of the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization program.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 4591) was passed.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED EN BLOC

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following resolutions en bloc: Calendar No. 375, S. Res. 341; Calendar No. 376, S. Res. 390; Calendar No. 377, S. Res. 499; Calendar No. 379, S. Res. 538; Calendar No. 380, S. Res. 615; and Calendar No. 381, S. Res. 632.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. CARDIN. I know of no further debate on the resolutions en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on the adoption of the resolutions en bloc.

The resolutions were agreed to.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the preambles be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, all en bloc.

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

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolution (S. Res. 341), with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of August 7, 2021, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

(The resolution (S. Res. 390), with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 28, 2021, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

(The resolution (S. Res. 499), with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of January 31, 2022, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

(The resolution (S. Res. 538), with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 8 (legislative day, March 7), 2022, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

(The resolution (S. Res. 615), with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of May 3, 2022, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

(The resolution (S. Res. 632), with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of May 16, 2022, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 654, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 654) designating June 2022 as ''Great Outdoors Month''.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

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

Mr. CARDIN. I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 654) was agreed to.

Mr. CARDIN. 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.'')

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 655, S. Res. 656, S. Res. 657, and S. Res. 658.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the resolutions en bloc?

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

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ADEN SPENCER PERRY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 659, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 659) honoring the memory of Aden Spencer Perry.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

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

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 659) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE NORMAN Y. MINETA

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 660, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 660) expressing the condolences of the Senate on the death of the Honorable Norman Y. Mineta.

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

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, that the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 660) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

THE RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE SHUL MURAL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize the Ohavi Zedek community and former Vermont Governor and U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland Madeleine Kunin for their efforts to preserve and restore the Shul Mural. Painted in 1910 by Ben Zion Black, the mural was commissioned by Burlington's Lithuanian Jewish community, who had come to Vermont from the town of Kovno and its environs to escape Russian pogroms.

The immigrants founded the Ohavi Zedek Synagogue in 1885 and the Chai Adam Synagogue 4 years later. It was at the latter synagogue that the Shul Mural was painted. Stretching from floor to ceiling, it depicts the Tent of the Tabernacle, as described in the Book of Numbers. The style in which it was painted was well-known to the members of Chai Adam, as it could be found in synagogues throughout Eastern Europe. Now, the Shul Mural is one of the few remaining examples of this style of painting in the world. The works which inspired it were destroyed, as part of the burning of synagogues and the extermination of millions of Eastern European Jews by the Nazis, including the decimation of Lithuania's Jewish population.

In Burlington, the Ohavi Zedek and Chai Adam synagogues merged in 1939. Chai Adam was sold. The building went through multiple uses and in 1986 the mural was covered with a false wall to protect it at the urging of Jeffrey Potash, a historian and Ohavi Zedek's archivist.

In 2012, the building was sold once again. The new owner agreed to donate the mural to Ohavi Zedek and efforts began to move the mural, a massive undertaking that was successfully completed in 2015. Since then, work has been underway to fully restore the painting.

The relocation and restoration of the mural were a significant undertaking, with costs exceeding $1 million. The funding came from foundations, historic preservation groups, arts organizations, and individuals.

Governor Kunin, herself a Jewish immigrant, lent her leadership skills to the effort, chairing the Friends of the Mural Board. Governor Kunin's parents were German Jews who fled to Switzerland, where her father died. Her mother brought Madeleine and her brother, Edgar, to the United States to escape the Nazis when Madeleine was 6 years old and Edgar 10. Although her immediate family survived the Holocaust, Governor Kunin lost extended family in the concentration camps. She is fond of saying both she and the mural are survivors.

Despite having arrived in the United States at a time of rising nativism, racism, and anti-Semitism, the families which had originally arrived from Lithuania continued to encourage their friends and former neighbors to follow them. At its peak, the community had more than a thousand members in Burlington. That community produced leaders in a number of fields, including Robert Larner, a physician who treated soldiers at Guadalcanal and Okinawa, and for whom Vermont's only medical school is now named, and Ed Colodny, the former CEO of U.S. Air.

While the story of Burlington's Lithuanian Jewish community is unique, it is also a perfect example of what immigrants have brought and continue to bring to the United States. They enrich our country and society by sharing their art, their culture, and their experience.

The story of the Shul Mural, the people who commissioned and created it, and those who ensured its preservation for future generations, is a Jewish story, an immigrant story, and a quintessentially American story.

RECOGNIZING EARTH PRIME COMICS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have long told the story of my love for Batman comics dating back to my younger years growing up in Montpelier, VT. When I was 4 years old, I would race to the Kellogg Hubbard Library in Montpelier with my latest Batman comic. As a child, reading comic books allowed me, like so many others, to broaden the expanses of my imagination. While Spider-Man and Superman are fine, I have always preferred Batman. His values, his pursuit of justice, his balance of human strength and vulnerability have always resonated with me.

I would like to take a moment today to recognize a store where I have bought more than my fair share of ''The Dark Knight,'' an institution foundational to the comic-loving community in Vermont: Earth Prime Comics.

Founded in 1983, Earth Prime Comics was one of Vermont's first comic book stores. It began as a shared venture between Christine Farrell and John Young, first operating out of John Young's attic in Burlington, VT. In that attic, John and Christine's extensive collection of comics quickly garnered a surprisingly large following. Earth Prime Comics soon moved into a real retail space: a converted Victorian house on Bank Street in Burlington. Requiring even more space for its growing business, Earth Prime moved to a storefront on Church Street in Burlington in 1989, a location where it has remained for 33 years.

Over the past few decades, Earth Prime Comics has drawn comic book fans from across Vermont and forged a comic-loving community where all were welcome. Christine still owns Earth Prime Comics, and it has been great to see how she and her team have continued to build and shape their community to keep pace with the ever-changing comic landscape. In the years to come, I have full faith that comic lovers of all ages will continue to

thumb through the pages of comics in Earth Prime Comics, as I have on so many occasions.

Earth Prime Comics was recently featured in an article published earlier this year in ''Seven Days.'' I ask unanimous consent that excerpts from the article, titled ''Origin Story: How Burlington's Earth Prime Comics helped unite Vermont's comic lovers,'' be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From Seven Days, Mar. 2, 2022]

ORIGIN STORY: HOW BURLINGTON'S EARTH PRIME COMICS HELPED UNITE VERMONT'S COMIC LOVERS

(By Chris Farnsworth)

I was 10 years old, staring at a strange house on Bank Street.

It was late summer, and my mother was inside the Burlington Square Mall shopping, so my brother Pat and I were cut loose to investigate the comic book shop across the street. Shadows from the trees in the yard cast the house in a mysterious darkness, making it resemble some Jungian archetype of a cave.

Pat and I were no rubes, despite our ages—Pat was 9. We'd been to the comic shops in New York City. We had a growing collection of X-Men and The New Mutants comics inherited from family friends. Hell, we had the Longshot miniseries, something we were rather proud of—and continue to be 30 years later.

Still, the house didn't look like a comic shop, and we climbed the porch stairs with trepidation. We'd only been Vermonters for a little while, and when you're the new kids in town, caution is a defense against disappointment.

I heard Pat gasp and followed his gaze to a poster taped inside the window. Staring out was the ferocious visage of Wolverine, leaping at us with adamantium claws drawn. Our hero.

This was the late 1980s, more than a decade before Hugh Jackman's Wolverine and the rest of the X-Men ushered in the age of superhero films dominating multiplexes. Back then, you wrote letters by hand to the publishers of comic books—and sometimes they answered. Comics fandom in the '80s was a club, and Pat and I were pledges standing before the clubhouse.

Steeling our nerves, we entered the store and breathed in the smell of newsprint and cardboard, the telltale musk of a good comic shop. Posters on the walls depicted more of our favorite characters, alongside many we had yet to discover. The mystery of these strange heroes and villains filled us with tension, a curiosity that had to be satiated.

But the real treat was the comics themselves. Even before we got to see the back-issue room, we salivated over the sheer number of books on display.

A bearded, longhaired man with a knowing grin looked at the two kids who'd wandered in with wide eyes.

''Well,'' I remember him saying, almost smugly, ''looks like you found your place.''

Our place, as the shopkeeper called it, was Earth Prime Comics. One of Vermont's first comic book shops, Earth Prime has been a center of the state's comic community since it moved out of original co-owner John Young's attic and into that Bank Street house-turned-shop in 1983. The shop has remained a polestar in its current home on the bottom block of the Church Street Marketplace, where it moved in 1989.

''Not many places downtown have been around longer,'' said Bill Simmon, who managed Earth Prime from 1989 to 1998. ''Old Gold, Pure Pop, maybe a few others? You can count them on one hand, I bet. Earth Prime is an institution.''

In its 39 years, Earth Prime has fostered generations of local comic fans, helping some of them go on to become comic artists themselves. The store has survived and thrived through the excitement of the underground comics explosion in the '80s, through the crisis and near collapse of the industry in the '90s—all the way to the modern epoch when movies and shows based on Marvel and DC Comics monopolize pop culture and, some say, draw interest away from their source material.

The little shop on Church Street is driven by the passion of its mysterious proprietor, Christine Farrell, who is rumored to have one of the largest and oldest private collections of comics on the planet. While Sen. Patrick Leahy (D–Vt.) may be Vermont's most famous Batman fan, she's said to have been collecting Bruce Wayne's exploits from the very beginning.

Farrell's store has been as much a clubhouse for the comic community to celebrate groundbreaking independent creators as a place to pick up the latest issue of Iron Man. It's no longer the only comic store in Vermont—many have come and gone over the decades, and the state is currently home to Barre's Wonder Cards and Comics and Rutland's newly opened Night Legion Comics. But Earth Prime has a special status for veterans of the scene.

''I have to give all due respect and honor to Earth Prime,'' Stephen Bissette said. The Duxbury native is one of Vermont's most influential and respected comic artists, having established himself with a seminal run in the early 1980s on Saga of the Swamp Thing with Alan Moore. He has taught for 15 years at the Center for Cartoon Studies in White River Junction.

Earth Prime has ''outlived every Vermont comic shop I've ever been to,'' Bissette said. ''Long may that continue.''

IT CAME FROM THE UNDERGROUND

Earth Prime's arrival in the '80s was perfectly timed, as the world of comics was undergoing a revolution on the national stage. Meanwhile, in Vermont, the store united a ragtag crew of comic fans into a community.

''I find, with people like us, it's inevitable, right?'' said John Odum, who hosts a podcast about all things geek called ''Open World Chat.'' ''It's part of being a comic fan. Eventually, we all start finding each other. It's just a question of where.''

Odum is the Montpelier city clerk and a freelance writer for comics sites such as Bleeding Cool. He grew up during the independent comics revolution of the '80s, when artists like Bissette and Veitch started pushing back against the censorship of their youth, working with writers far removed from the kid-friendly scripts of Stan Lee.

Moore's Watchmen series and Miller's dark, noir-tinged work on Batman and Daredevil changed the mainstream superhero books. The arrival of titles such as Cerebus and Elfquest marked the rise of the underground.

''The 1980s changed comics,'' Odum said. Veitch agrees.

''The '80s for comics were like the '60s for music,'' he said. ''For a short time, before the moneymen caught on, the inmates got control of the asylum.''

Earth Prime was at the forefront of that movement in Vermont. Its reputation drew fans from all over the state.

DON'T CALL IT A COMEBACK

As the 1980s wound up, the scene changed at Earth Prime. Amidon left for Massachusetts. Many of the first-generation Earth Prime kids grew up and either moved away, as Pat and I did in 1989, or simply lacked the time they once had to hang out at the shop all day.

''The family atmosphere kind of changed,'' Simmon said. ''It was still fun to be there and talk comics, but look, we weren't kids anymore. Life tends to get more serious, even at comic shops.''

In the spring of 1989, Farrell bought out Young's half of the business and moved Earth Prime to its current spot at 152 Church Street. Though none of the original gang wanted to go into details, they implied that some sort of schism occurred between the two founders of Earth Prime. Young opened Comics City at the other end of downtown Burlington, before moving eventually to Winooski. Customers were split; many, like Rovnak, switched over to Young's new store.

Within a few years, the entire comics industry was rocked like never before, as its own increasing cultural legitimacy sent it into a boom-and-bust cycle. Collectors started snapping up ''big event'' books such as The Death of Superman and Batman: Knightfall, creating a bloat in the speculator market that coincided with a disastrous decision by Marvel to bypass the distributors and form its own distribution wing. When the market crashed, the company was stuck with multiple printings of variant issues that were meant to be ''collectible'' but are now the exact opposite.

What kept Earth Prime afloat while all the other boats sank? Farrell herself seems to have been a major factor. Her clear vision of how to create communities of like-minded fans would serve her well, as one industry faltered and another emerged.

In 1989, Farrell opened Quarterstaff Games directly above Earth Prime. With its medieval-tavern vibe, it's Vermont's longest-lived gaming shop. Like its sister store, Quarterstaff has fostered a long-marginalized community and given them a home—another tribute to Farrell's dedication.

Farrell's tenacity was rewarded as the century came to a close and the fortunes of comics changed once again. Though superheroes had made their mark on cinema in the past, notably with Tim Burton's Batman and Richard Donner's Superman films, the 2000s saw the rise of Marvel as an entertainment business. In 20 years, the company went from barely surviving bankruptcy to being a multibillion-dollar juggernaut that dominates Hollywood. Disney would buy it in 2009.

For Giordano, that process started at Earth Prime, where the future illustrator would draw all day at a table beside the back issues.

''I would never have become an artist if I didn't have somewhere like Earth Prime,'' he said. ''People there would see me drawing, whether it was coworkers or customers, and gave me positive feedback. There's power in that—I started to think, Hey, maybe I'm not a total piece of shit. Maybe I have some value. I owe everything to that experience.''

TO BE CONTINUED

I remembered Giordano's words as I stared down the front door of Earth Prime a few weeks ago. I hadn't been inside in years, but knowing that the store was there hung on me like a weight, like a gift I couldn't dare take for granted.

I walked inside, unsurprised by the posters this time. The staff were helping customers or reading comics as hip-hop played softly over the speakers.

I thought of Shady, the black cat who used to guard the boxes of comics with a lazy swipe of her paw. I thought about how I've skipped every school reunion I've ever been

invited to and how none of them would have felt as much like an authentic reunion as being inside Earth Prime did at that moment.

A man roughly my own age walked in, flanked by several children. One of them, a young girl wearing a white-and-pink Spider-Gwen hoodie, had a list in hand. She bounced on the balls of her feet as she browsed from shelf to shelf, humming quietly.

I looked away, overcome by a rogue wave of emotion. I seemed to see a thread stretching back through time, connecting Bissette, Veitch and Farrell hunting the comics racks to misfits like Giordano and Simmon finding family at a fledgling shop. That thread reached all the way to the girl in the hoodie, humming to herself in her happy place. Earth Prime was hers now more than mine, and I loved that so much that I felt a strange, damp sensation at the comers of my eyes.

As I walked away from Earth Prime, I made a mental note to text my brother. I wanted to say something reflective of the strange epiphany I'd had standing in the shop. In the end, though, I decided to keep it simple.

''Dropped by Earth Prime,'' I texted Pat. ''Still the same.''

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

IRAN

• Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, yesterday, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing examining the current negotiations around restoring the JCPOA and our Nation's Iran policy. However, because I contracted COVID–19 and am following CDC guidance to isolate, I was not able to attend this important hearing. But I do want to state, for the record, that I believe preventing a nuclear-armed Iran through hard-nosed diplomacy is of the utmost importance to our Nation.

I am under no illusions that the deal currently being negotiated by the Biden administration would be perfect or that Iran is a good-faith negotiating partner. But when it comes to preventing a nuclear-armed Iran and creating a monitoring and verification regime that ensures Iran is sticking to its commitments, it is the only option.

Maximum pressure didn't work; more sanctions only led to Iran reconstituting its weapons program and growing its nuclear stockpile and more nefarious behavior in the region. A military response would be even worse; Iran would undoubtedly retaliate and be incentivized to ratchet up its nuclear program as it has done when its nuclear facilities and officials have been attacked in the past. Neither option achieves our goal of preventing a nuclear-armed Iran.

The only viable option is to continue negotiations on a nuclear deal. Doing so doesn't mean foregoing all of our other concerns with Iran. The U.S. never should and never will acquiesce in Iran's violations of international law and human rights and should continue to use all of our tools to combat its malign actions. But it would be a grave mistake to effectively green light an Iranian bomb if we are unable to convince Iran's leadership to renounce all of Iran's other bad behavior as well.

A nuclear-armed Iran would be catastrophic for the region and the world by emboldening a belligerent nation, setting off an arms race, and undermining the broader nuclear order. I urge my colleagues to join me in giving the administration the space and flexibility it needs to restore a deal that prevents such an outcome.•

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this coming Monday is Memorial Day, the day we set aside to honor the more than 1.1 million Americans who have given their lives in military service to our Nation.

It is a solemn day of remembrance and has a special resonance in my state. One of America's first Memorial Day ceremonies occurred in Illinois. It was April 1866—barely a year after the end of America's terrible Civil War.

Three returning veterans from that great conflict were waiting for services to begin at a church in Carbondale when they saw a young woman with two infants approach a small, unmarked grave in the church cemetery, place flowers on the grave, and kneel in prayer. The veterans, deeply moved, collected wildflowers and placed them at all of the veterans' graves in the churchyard. They then arranged to host a parade of veterans to honor the war dead resting in the town's cemetery.

More than 200 veterans showed up for that parade—one of America's first Memorial Day parades. Among the marchers was General John Logan, a Civil War hero and proud son of Illinois. The following year, General Logan was appointed the commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. One of his first acts as commander in chief was to call for a national day of remembrance to honor the soldiers who sacrificed their lives so that America could receive a ''new birth of freedom.''

In the Army's General Order No. 11—the ''Memorial Day Order''—General Logan wrote of his hope that the day of remembrance would be ''kept up from year to year, [as long as] a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades.''

On this Memorial Day, more than a century and a half later, we remember all of the American patriots who have fallen in battles—from Antietam, to the Argonne Forest, to Afghanistan. General Logan called their deaths ''the cost of a free and undivided republic.''

In these fractious times, when our Nation sometimes feels, again, like a house divided, may we remember the price those fallen heroes paid to preserve our Union. And may we also remember the duty we each bear to preserve the priceless gift for which they gave their lives—this Nation, free and undivided.

On a related note, I want to take a moment to wish a belated happy birthday to an American hero who returned from war. Sgt. Victor Butler is that last surviving Tuskegee Airman in his home State of Rhode Island and one of the last of that legendary Band of Brothers in our Nation. Last Saturday, May 21, Mr. Butler celebrated his 100th birthday.

When he was a young man, he and the other members of the Tuskegee Airmen helped to save the world from the tyranny of fascism—and he helped to loosen the grip of racism on America. In the weeks before his 100th birthday, Mr. Butler told family and friends all he wanted for his centennial celebration was a card. He didn't want folks to make a fuss or go to any great expense.

One of his nieces posted his wish on social media—and word spread. He thought he might receive a few cards. At last count, Mr. Butler had received more than 40,000 cards and video greetings from people in every State in the Union and as far away as Japan, South Korea, and Germany.

Last Saturday, on his birthday, his hometown held a parade in his honor. And he received a signed football and a jersey with the number ''100'' on the back, hand-delivered by the owner of his favorite football team, the New England Patriots—a well-deserved tribute to a real-life hero.

Like the tradition of Memorial Day, the Tuskegee Airmen have a special connection to my State. The first airfield where they trained—before Tuskegee—was Chanute Field in Rantoul, IL, near Champaign. The spot where that airfield stood is marked proudly today with signs that read ''Birthplace of the Tuskegee Airmen.'' And in 2016, Illinois renamed a stretch of Interstate 57 on the South Side of Chicago as the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Trail. It is a fitting tribute, given how many Tuskegee Airman had roots in the Chicago area.

African-Americans have fought and died for America's freedom since Crispus Attucks became the first American to fall in our War for Independence.

As the first African-American aviators ever to serve in the U.S. Army Air Corps, the Tuskegee Airman occupy a special chapter in our Nation's history. They fought in World War II, at a time when the U.S. Armed Forces were still segregated, and our Nation was still riven with racially discriminatory laws and attitudes. Their original mission was to serve as escort pilots for other American flyers, to protect them from enemy fire. The Tuskegee Airmen also flew bombing missions themselves.

Officially, they were known as the 99th Pursuit Squadron and the 332nd Fighter Group. But the pilots whose flights they protected gave them a nickname. They called them the Red Tails, or the Red-Tailed Angels, due to the distinctive color on their aircraft

wings. Their leader was the legendary Captain Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., who would go on to become the first African-American brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force. His father, Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., was the first Black brigadier general in the U.S. Army.

There were a total of 932 Tuskegee Airmen pilots, and another 10,000 Tuskegee Airmen—and women—who served as mechanics, radio operators, and other essential support positions. They conducted more than 700 bomber escort missions—and they never lost a single lost a single aircraft—not one. They were the only fighter group in World War II with a perfect record of protecting bombers.

White U.S. military pilots were permitted to fly no more than 52 missions during World War II. Some Tuskegee Airman flew as many as 100 missions. Sixty-six Tuskegee Airmen died in combat. Thirty-three were held as prisoners of war.

In March 2007, the Tuskegee Airmen as a group were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor Congress can bestow. The ceremony was held in the Rotunda of the Capitol. I will never forget the sight of 300 Tuskegee Airman dressed in red sports jackets, saluting the American flag in that hallowed space. Some were in wheelchairs. But when the National Anthem played, they all rose to their feet and stood straight and proud.

Just before the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony, I had the privilege of hosting several Tuskegee Airmen with Illinois roots in my office. Then-Senator Obama stopped by to pay his respects. It was a historic and humbling moment.

I met Lt. Colonel George Sherman, who grew up in Moline and joined the Army Air Corps in 1944 at the age of 18. He had to take the physical twice; he was rejected the first time because of his buck teeth, but he didn't give up. He ended up serving 22 years in the Air Force.

First Lieutenant Shelby Westbook was born in Arkansas and lost both of his parents when he was just 12. He flew 60 missions over 12 countries in Europe. After the war, he wanted to attend engineering school. The first school he applied to rejected him because it didn't accept Black students. He moved to Chicago, earned a degree, and worked as an electrical engineer for decades.

First Lieutenant Robert Martin famously claimed to have flown ''63 and a half missions.'' On his 64th combat mission, he was shot down over Yugoslavia. He was hidden by antifascist partisans until he could return to his unit. After the war, he worked as an electrical engineer for the city of Chicago for nearly 40 years.

Flight Officer John Lyle—''Captain Jack'' to his friends—grew up on Chicago's South Side. He flew 26 combat missions. After the war, he earned a college degree but couldn't find work in his field so, for a time, he washed windows of downtown skyscrapers. Eventually, he owned his own insurance agency, a fish and chicken restaurant, and a tree-trimming service.

Lt. Bev Dunjill flew more than 100 combat missions between World War II and the Korean war. He later worked for the Illinois Department of Human Rights.

All of those heroes are gone now. But their valor and impact are not forgotten. The Tuskegee Airmen and the all-Black Montfort Point Marines were among nearly 1 million Black Americans who served in World War II. Most saw the war as a battle on two fronts—one against fascism overseas and the other against racially discriminatory laws and attitudes in America.

Their goal, they said, was ''the Double V,'' victory for democracy overseas and at home. The change at home did not come easily, but it did come. Three years after World War II ended, President Truman ordered an end to segregation in the U.S. Armed Forces. And the service and sacrifice of the Tuskegee Airmen and other Black veterans and leaders helped set the stage for the civil rights movement of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s.

Today, as the last surviving Tuskegee Airman near their 100th birthdays and we lose hundreds of World War II veterans each day, we are painfully aware that the democracy and unity they paid such a high price for is under threat, both overseas and at home. The peace of Europe and democracy itself is under fire from Russia in Ukraine. And our sense of security and national unity seems to be fraying at home. Violence—especially gun violence—threatens us all, even our children.

Our progress against division and discrimination often feels shaky. We are pitted against each other by those who believe that conflict and anger is good for their political interests or their profit sheets. But it doesn't have to be this way.

As we prepare to remember and honor those who gave their lives for our freedom, let us resolve to do our part, in our time, to keep our Nation free and undivided.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN1670, the nomination of Nancy G. Abudu, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, having been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1) on the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 11 ayes to 11 noes; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (l)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

HONORING TED BENDA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last April, I came to the floor to honor fallen Iowa State Patrol Sergeant Jim Smith, who was murdered trying to apprehend a violent criminal. Last week, justice was served. His killer was convicted. I thank everyone who worked on this case.

Today, after the completion of National Police Week, it is with a heavy heart that I recognize another Iowa State Patrol officer killed in the line of duty last year in a tragic car accident. State Patrol Trooper Ted Benda was a dedicated servant of the people of Iowa for 16 years.

He began his career in Marquette and later moved to the Iowa State Patrol to serve the communities of Mason City and Oelwein. Trooper Benda was beloved by his colleagues who described him as dedicated. He ''fully embraced the call to protect the community.''

He put his family first, always lent a hand to friends and neighbors and cherished both his country and his community. Even in death, his service continued. As an organ donor, Trooper Benda continued to save lives. Trooper Benda: We thank you.

Trooper Benda left behind a loving family including his wife, Holly, and his four young daughters: Madilyn, Avery, Vivyan, and Sylvia.

Let me say to them: Your immeasurable sacrifice is honored by your community and your country. We thank you.

Losses like Trooper Benda's remind us of the great dangers that law enforcement officers and first responders face in service to our communities.

Last week, the Judiciary Committee held a Police Week markup. We passed several important measures through our committee that will help the police.

Soon, at my request, the Judiciary Committee will have a hearing on attacks on police. I have and will continue to lead efforts in the Senate to support law enforcement. After all that they have done to protect and serve us, it is the least I can do to protect and serve them.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, in 1988, President Ronald Reagan first recognized May as National Foster Care Month.

Each year since then, the month of May has been recognized as a time to bring awareness to youth in foster care.

I thank my colleagues for once again unanimously passing a resolution to recognize the experiences of youth and families in the foster care system and celebrate those who work to improve their lives.

Organizations in Iowa and around the country tirelessly serve kids and families in foster care and the foster parents who open their homes to kids in need.

I salute these organizations and individuals for their year-round efforts to support the kids most in need.

In 2020, there were over 400,000 kids in foster care, including over 4,000 kids in Iowa.

During the pandemic, there was a drop in reports of child abuse, as well as entries into foster care and exits from foster care.

There were the fewest adoptions from foster care since 2016 with 8,000 fewer children being adopted compared to the previous year.

However, Iowa deserves recognition for being one of only nine States to increase adoptions from foster care during 2020.

Permanency for youth in foster care is so important, and I am glad that Iowa continued to make this a priority during the pandemic.

Older youth in foster care and adults who experienced foster care as a child can speak to what worked for them and what didn't work.

These young adults should always have a seat at the table.

When I founded the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth in 2009, the special focus was to hear directly from youth themselves.

Over and over again, I have heard the same thing from kids in foster care: They want a mom and dad. They want a family and a place to call home.

All children, no matter their circumstances, deserve a permanent, loving home and consistent, caring adults in their lives.

We know that just having one caring and consistent adult can meaningfully improve the lives of kids in the long-term.

For some kids, this can be a biological parent who receives the support they need to safely care for their child.

For others, a foster parent, mentor or court-appointed special advocate can be that adult.

My resolution marks May 31 as a particular day to recognize and show appreciation for foster parents.

Congress has worked to expand access to prevention services in the hopes of keeping families out of foster care in the first place.

But in addition to this, it is crucial for foster parents to get the support they need to continue serving kids in their communities.

In Iowa, almost every county has a shortage of trained foster parents who are able to provide a temporary home for kids.

Without volunteer foster parents, kids who cannot remain safely at home end up sleeping in hotels and in the offices of social workers.

Moving forward, Congress must continue to work to find better solutions and secure better outcomes for youth in foster care.

It is clear that there is no one answer for kids in foster care. Some can be reunified with their families; others are best cared for by adoptive parents or a kinship caregiver.

But the goal should always be the same: to protect kids from neglect and abuse and provide them with love and support.

I thank my colleagues for unanimously passing my resolution honoring May as National Foster Care Month once again and look forward to continuing to work on this issue.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL GENTRY W. BOSWELL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today, I am honored to recognize the extraordinary service of Brig. Gen. Gentry W. Boswell on the occasion of his retirement. His 31 years of service to our Nation is the reflection of a true and devoted public servant.

General Boswell received his commission in 1991 as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at Delta State University, and he also earned a master of aeronautical science at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. In addition, General Boswell studied at the Squadron Officer School, the Air Command and Staff College, the Joint Forces Command Advanced Warfighting School, the Air War College, the Keenan-Flagler Enterprise Leadership School, and the Naval War College. General Boswell's distinguished military career encompassed operational tours flying the B–1B, B–52, RC–135, and E–6B aircraft, and he accumulated more than 4,900 flight hours, including over 500 combat hours in Southwest Asia, the Balkans, and the Horn of Africa.

South Dakotans were fortunate to have General Boswell fulfill five separate military assignments at Ellsworth Air Force Base, serving as assistant director of operations for the 77th Bomb Squadron from 1999 to 2002, director of operations for the 37th Bomb Squadron from 2007 to 2008, commander of the 28th Operations Support Squadron from 2008 to 2010, vice commander of the 28th Bomb Wing from 2012 to 2014, and commander of the 28th Bomb Wing from 2015 to 2017.

During his assignments at Ellsworth AFB, General Boswell developed a culture of putting the airmen first, and he engaged actively in partnerships with civilian leadership in Rapid City and other Black Hills communities to improve the quality of life for those in uniform and their families. In addition, as commander of the 28th Operations Support Squadron, General Boswell was instrumental in advancing the expansion of the Powder River Training Complex. The expanded air space represents the largest military operations area in the lower 48 States, spanning the skies over North Dakota and South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming. This expansive training airspace allows Air Force pilots and crews to perform the critical training they need in conditions that closely resemble combat missions.

General Boswell's final assignment for the Air Force was serving as the director of manpower, organization, and resources. He led the management and oversight of the Air Force's manpower enterprise, which encompasses more than 694,000 total force personnel and the programming of more than $47 billion in annual funding.

General Boswell has received several prestigious awards for his outstanding military service, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with two oakleaf clusters, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three oakleaf clusters, and the Air Medal with two oakleaf clusters.

We are thrilled that General Boswell has chosen to retire in the Black Hills of South Dakota, where he will have plenty of opportunities to dedicate more time to hunting. I join all South Dakotans in extending our congratulations to General Boswell upon his retirement and for his outstanding military career.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22–28, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost $385 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan

to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22–28

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* $350 million.

Other $35 million.

Total $385 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Twenty (20) M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS).

Thirty (30) M30A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS).

Thirty (30) Alternative Warhead (AW) Pods with Insensitive Munitions Propulsion Systems (IMPS).

Thirty (30) M31A2 GMLRS Unitary (GMLRS–U) High Explosive Pods with IMPS.

Thirty (30) XM403 Extended Range (ER)–GMLRS AW Pods.

Thirty (30) EM404 ER GMLRS Unitary Pods.

Ten (10) M57 Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS).

Non-MDE: Also included are Reduced Range Practice Rocket Pods (RRPRP); Vehicular Intercom System (AN/VIC–3) 3-Station; radio communication mounts; machine gun mounts; battle management system vehicle integration kits; wheel guards; ruggedized laptops; training equipment publications; spare and repair parts; support equipment; tools; test equipment; technical data; U.S. Government and Contractor support; technical and logistical support services; and other related elements of program and logistic support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (AT–B–UMK).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: AT–B–UMJ, AT–B–UKI.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 26, 2022.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Australia—HIMARS Launchers

The Government of Australia has requested to buy twenty (20) M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS); thirty (30) M30A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (GMLRS); thirty (30) Alternative Warhead (AW) Pods with Insensitive Munitions Propulsion Systems (IMPS); thirty (30) M31A2 GMLRS Unitary (GMLRS–U) High Explosive Pods with IMPS; thirty (30) XM403 Extended Range (ER)–GMLRS AW Pods; thirty (30) EM404 ER GMLRS Unitary Pods; and ten (10) M57 Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS). Also included are Reduced Range Practice Rocket Pods (RRPRP); Vehicular Intercom System (AN/VIC–3) 3–Station; radio communication mounts; machine gun mounts; battle management system vehicle integration kits; wheel guards; ruggedized laptops; training equipment publications; spare and repair parts; support equipment; tools; test equipment; technical data; U.S. Government and Contractor support; technical and logistical support services; and other related elements of program and logistic support. The total estimated program cost is $385 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist our ally in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

The proposed sale will improve Australia's capability to meet current and future threats, and will enhance interoperability with U.S. forces and other allied forces. Australia will use the capability to strengthen its homeland defense and provide greater security for its critical infrastructure. Australia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Lockheed Martin Inc., Bethesda, MD; Chelton Inc., Marlow, United Kingdom; and L3 Harris Corp., Melbourne, FL. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor(s).

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of two (2) U.S. Government and five (5) U.S. contractor representatives in Australia for a period of one year.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22–28

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) is a C–130 transportable wheeled launcher mounted on a 5-ton Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles truck chassis. HIMARS is the modern Army-fielded version of the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) M270 launcher, and can fire all of the MLRS Family of Munitions (FOM) including Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) variants and the Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS). Utilizing the MLRS FOM, the HIMARS can engage targets between 15 and 300 kilometers with Global Positioning System (GPS)-aided precision accuracy.

2. The M31A2 GMLRS Unitary is the Army's primary munition for units fielding the M142 HIMARS and M270A1 MLRS Launchers. The M31 Unitary is a solid propellant artillery rocket that uses GPS/Precise Positioning Service (PPS)-aided inertial guidance to accurately and quickly deliver a single high-explosive blast fragmentation warhead to targets at ranges from 15–70 kilometers. The rockets are fired from a launch pod container that also serves as the storage and transportation container for the rockets. Each rocket pod holds six (6) total rockets.

3. The M30A2 GMLRS Alternative Warhead shares a greater than 90% commonality with the M31A1 Unitary. The primary difference between the GMLRS-U and GMLRS-AW is the replacement of the Unitary's high explosive warhead with a 200-pound fragmentation warhead of pre-formed tungsten penetrators which is optimized for effectiveness against large area and imprecisely located targets. The munitions otherwise share a common motor, GPS/PPS-aided inertial guidance and control system, fusing mechanism, multi-option height of burst capability, and effective range of 15–70km.

4. The M57 ATACMS-Unitary is a conventional, semi-ballistic missile that utilizes a 500-pound high explosive warhead. It has an effective range of between 70 and 300 kilometers, and has increased lethality and accuracy over previous versions of the ATACMS due to a GPS/ PPS aided navigation system.

5. The Extended Range (ER) GMLRS provides a persistent, responsive, all-weather, rapidly deployed, long range, surface-to surface, area- and point-precision strike capability. The XM403 Alternative Warhead (AW) carries a 200-pound fragmentation assembly filled with high explosives which, upon detonation, accelerates two layers of preformed penetrators optimized for effectiveness against large area and imprecisely located targets. The XM404 Unitary variant is a 200–pound class unitary with a steel blast-fragmentation case, designed for low collateral damage against point targets. The ER GMLRS maintains the accuracy and effectiveness demonstrated by the baseline GMLRS out to a maximum range of 150 km while also including a new Height of Burst (HOB) capability.

6. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

7. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

8. A determination has been made that Australia can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

9. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Australia.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

The Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 21–0M. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 20–81 of February 16, 2021.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21–0M

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(B)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Egypt

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1). AECA Transmittal No.: 20–81

Date: February 16, 2021

Military Department: Navy

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing (FMF)

(iii) Description: On February 16, 2021, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 20–81 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of up to one hundred sixty-eight (168) RIM–116C Rolling Airframe Missiles (RAM) Block 2 tactical missiles. Also included were RAM Guided Missile Round Pack Tri-Pack shipping and storage containers; operator manuals and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total program cost was $197 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted $182 million of this total.

This transmittal notifies the addition of four (4) MK 49 MOD 5 RAM Guided Missile Launching Systems (GMLS) (MDE). The following non-MOE items will also be included: support equipment; sparing; U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; and U.S. Government non-technical support. The overall MDE value will increase to $282 million and the overall total value will increase to $347 million.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided to report the inclusion of MDE items not previously notified. The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified. The Egyptian Navy will replace the RAM MK 49 MOD 3 launchers on its Ex-Oliver Hazard Perry (OHP) Frigates with these Mod 5 launchers. This potential sale will improve Egypt's capability to meet current and future threats and provide significantly enhanced area defense capabilities over Egypt's coastal areas and approaches to the Suez Canal.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that continues to be an important strategic partner in the Middle East.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The RAM MK 49 GMLS is the launcher for the RAM Guided Missile Weapon System (GMWS) that was approved under the original 36(b)(1) notification, Transmittal No. 20–81. The RAM GMWS is a high fire power, dual mode, fire and forget weapon system, which provides ship self defense against anti-ship missiles. The RAM MK 49 GMLS is comprised of a 21-round launcher guide, which is capable of firing tactical or telemetry RAM missiles.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is UNCLASSIFIED.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 26, 2022.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22–11, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Egypt for defense articles and services estimated to cost $2.60 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22–11

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Egypt.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * $1.725 billion.

Other $.875 billion.

Total $2.600 billion.

Funding Source: Combined National Funds and Foreign Military Financing (FMF).

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Twenty-three (23) CH–47F Chinook Helicopters.

Fifty-six (56) T–55–GA–714A Engines (46 installed, 10 spares).

Fifty-two (52) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS) Inertial Navigation Systems (INS) (EGI) (46 installed, 6 spares).

Twenty-nine (29) AN/AAR–57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS) (23 installed, 6 spares)

Seventy-five (75) M–240 Machine Guns (69 installed, 6 spares).

Non-MDE: Also included is Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) classified software; AN/APR–39 Radar Warning Receivers (RWR); AN/AVR–2B Laser Detecting Sets (LDS); High Frequency (HF) radios; Aircraft Survivability Equipment (ASE) (including 25.4mm decoy cartridges, impulse cartridges for cable cutters and aircraft cartridges); AN/ARN–147 Very High Frequency (VHF) Omni Directional Radio Range/Instrument Landing System (VOR/ILS) receivers; AN/ARN–153 Tactical Airborne Navigation System (TACAN) radios; AN/APN–209 radar altimeters; AN/AVS–6 Night Vision Devices (NVD); 7.62mm ammunition; items and services to support the mission equipment; hardware and services required to implement additional aircraft options such as: rescue hoists; external cargo slings and nets; Bambi fire buckets; Fast Rope Insertion Extraction Systems (FRIES); Cargo On/Off Loading Systems (COOLS); Extended Range Fuel Systems (ERFS); upgrade to the maintenance hangar and additional parking pads; special tools and test equipment; ground support equipment; airframe and engine spare parts; technical data; publications; Maintenance Work Orders/Engineering Change Proposals (MWO/ECPs); technical assistance; transportation; training; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (EG–B–VGG).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: EG–B–KXA. EG–B–BEL.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee. etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 26, 2022.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Egypt—CH–47F Chinook Helicopters

The Government of Egypt has requested to buy twenty-three (23) CH–47F Chinook helicopters; fifty-six (56) T–55–GA–714A engines (46 installed, 10 spares); fifty-two (52) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS) Inertial Navigation Systems (INS) (EGI) (46 installed, 6 spares); twenty-nine (29) AN/AAR–57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS) (23 installed, 6 spares); and seventy-five (75) M–240 machine guns (69 installed, 6 spares). Also included is Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) classified software; AN/APR–39 Radar Warning Receivers (RWR); AN/AVR–2B Laser Detecting Sets (LDS); High Frequency (HF) radios; Aircraft Survivability Equipment (ASE) (including 25.4mm decoy cartridges, impulse cartridges for cable cutters and aircraft cartridges); AN/ARN–147 Very High Frequency (VHF) Omni Directional Radio Range/Instrument Landing System (VOR/ILS) receivers; AN/ARN–153 Tactical Airborne Navigation System (TACAN) radios; AN/APN–209 radar altimeters, AN/AVS–6 Night Vision Devices (NVD); 7.62mm ammunition; items and services to support the mission equipment; hardware and services required to implement additional aircraft options such as: rescue hoists; external cargo slings and nets; Bambi fire buckets; Fast Rope Insertion Extraction Systems (FRIES); Cargo On/Off Loading Systems (COOLS); Extended Range Fuel Systems (ERFS); upgrade to the maintenance hangar and additional parking pads; special tools and test equipment; ground support equipment; airframe and engine spare parts; technical data; publications; Maintenance Work Orders/Engineering Change Proposals (MWO/ECPs); technical assistance; transportation; training; and other related elements

of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost is $2.6 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that continues to be an important strategic partner in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve Egypt's heavy lift capability. Egypt will use this enhanced capability to strengthen its homeland defense and deter regional threats. Egypt will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Boeing Helicopter Company, Philadelphia, PA. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of seven (7) U.S. Government and six (6) contractor representatives to Egypt to support delivery of the CH–47 Chinook aircraft and to provide support and equipment familiarization. Two (2) contractors would be deployed to Egypt for approximately two (2) years plus options for additional years for follow-on support of equipment and five (5) military personnel (Technical Assistance Field Team/TAFT) would be deployed to Egypt for approximately two (2) years.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22–11

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The CH–47F is a twin engine, heavy lift helicopter. The CH–47F has the common avionics architecture system (CAAS) cockpit, which provides aircraft system, flight, mission, and communication management systems. The CAAS includes five multifunction displays (MFDs), two general purpose processor units (GPPUs), two control display units (CDUs) and two data concentrator units (DCUs). The Navigation System has two Embedded GPS/INS (EGIs), two Digital Advanced Flight Control System (DAFCS), one AN/ARN–147 (VOR/ILS marker Beacon System), one ARN–153 Tactical Air Navigation System (TACAN), two air data computers, and one AN/APN–209 Radar Altimeter system. The communications suite is as follows: two each Multi-mode radios providing VHF FM, VHF–AM, UHF, HQ II and Demand Assigned Multiple Access (DAMA) Satellite Communications (SATCOM), and one each High Frequency (HF) Radio. Aircraft survivability equipment (ASE) will consist of the AN/AAR–57 Common Missile Warning System (CMWS), and the AN/APR–39 Radar Signal Detecting Set (RSDS).

a. The AN/AAR–57 Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) is the detection component of the suite of countermeasures designed to increase survivability of current generation combat aircraft and specialized special operations aircraft against the threat posed by infrared guided missiles.

b. The AN/APR–39 Radar Signal Detecting Set provides the pilot with visual and audible warning when a hostile fire-control threat is encountered.

c. The AN/AVS–6 Night Vision Device (NVD) is a third-generation, helmet-mounted, direct-view, image-intensification device. It enables Aviators to operate more effectively and safely during lowlight and degraded battlefield conditions.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Government of Egypt can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Egypt.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA., May 26, 2022.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22–25, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the Netherlands for defense articles and services estimated to cost $117 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22–25

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of the Netherlands.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * $104.6 million.

Other $12.4 million.

Total $117.0 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case NE–P–AGJ, was below congressional notification threshold at $16.8 million ($15.3 million in MDE) and included twenty-three (23) AIM–9X Block II Tactical Missiles. The Government of the Netherlands has requested the case be amended to include an additional fifty (50) AIM–9X Block II Tactical Missiles and requested a new FMS case for twenty-two (22) AIM–9X Block II Tactical Missiles; forty-three (43) AIM–9X Block II+ Tactical Missiles; and one (1) AIM–9X Block II+ Tactical Guidance Unit. This case amendment and new FMS case will increase the total case values above the MDE notification threshold and thus require notification of the entirety of the FMS cases.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Ninety-five (95) AIM–9X Block II Tactical Missiles.

Forty-three (43) AIM–9X Block II+ Tactical Missiles.

One (1) AIM–9X Block II+ Tactical Guidance Unit.

Non-MDE: Also included are containers; classified and unclassified software; U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (NE–P–AGM, NE–P–AGJ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: NE–P–AGE.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 26, 2022

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

The Netherlands—AIM–9X Block II Missiles

The Government of the Netherlands has requested to buy seventy-two (72) AIM–9X Block II Tactical Missiles; and forty-three (43) AIM–9X Block II+ Tactical Missiles that will be added to a previously implemented case. The original FMS case, valued at $16.8 million, included twenty-three (23) AIM–9X Block II Tactical Missiles. The Netherlands has also requested a new FMS case for twenty-two (22) AIM–9X Block II Tactical Missiles; forty-three (43) AIM–9X Block II+ Tactical Missiles; and one (1) AIM–9X Block II+ Tactical Guidance Unit. Therefore, this notification is for a total of ninety-five (95) AIM–9X Block II Tactical Missiles; forty-three (43) AIM–9X Block II+ Tactical Missiles; and one (1) AIM–9X Block II+ Tactical Guidance Unit. Also included are containers; classified and unclassified software; U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated cost is $117 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a NATO ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will enable the Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNAF) to provide stronger support for the Netherlands' air defense needs. This proposed sale of AIM–9X missiles will improve the RNAF's capability to conduct self-defense and regional security missions, enhancing interoperability with the U.S. and other NATO members. The Netherlands will have no difficulty absorbing these missiles into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Raytheon Missiles and Defense, Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this sale will not require the assignment of any U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the Netherlands.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22–25

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AIM–9X Block II and Block II+ (Plus) Missile (including the Guidance Unit) replaces the AIM–9X Block I Missile configuration. The missile includes a high off-boresight seeker, enhanced countermeasure rejection capability, low drag/high angle of attack airframe and the ability to integrate the Helmet Mounted Cueing System. The software algorithms are the most sensitive portion of the AIM–9X missile. The software continues to be modified via a pre-planned product improvement (P3I) program in order to improve its counter-countermeasure capabilities. No software source code or algorithms will be released.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. In a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Netherlands can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of the Netherlands.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the attached letter in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION,

Washington, DC. May 26, 2022.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

S. 4145, the Consumer Protection Remedies Act of 2022, having been referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with a quorum present, has voted on the bill as follows:

On the question of favorably reporting S. 4145, as amended, 14 ayes to 14 noes.

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Commerce on Commerce, Science, and Transportation has not reported the bill because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

MARIA CANTWELL,
Chair.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the attached letter in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION,

Washington, DC, May 26, 2022.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

S. 4217, the Transportation Fuel Market Transparency Act, having been referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with a quorum present, has voted on the bill as follows:

On the question of favorably reporting S. 4217, as amended, 14 ayes to 14 noes.

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Commerce on Commerce, Science, and Transportation has not reported the bill because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

MARIA CANTWELL,
Chair.

UKRAINE

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the Joint Resolution Expressing Support For The People Of Ukraine which was passed overwhelmingly by the Maine State Legislature. Together, we recognize the importance of democratic institutions and values around the world, and we are resolute in fighting against the forces of authoritarianism. This joint resolution reiterates Maine people's support for peace, diplomacy, and the immediate end to the invasion.

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

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

JOINT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

Whereas, Ukraine is the second largest country in Europe; and

Whereas, on January 21, 1990, more than 300,000 Ukrainians called for unity and independence from the Soviet Union by forming a human chain between the cities of Kyiv and Ivano-Frankivsk; and

Whereas, after years of oppression, in 1991 Ukraine won freedom from the Soviet Union's totalitarian dictatorship because of the Ukrainians' love of liberty; and

Whereas, Ukraine is a sovereign nation, and the United States and Ukraine have been partners since Ukraine declared its independence from the Soviet Union more than 30 years ago; and

Whereas, the people of Maine and the people of Ukraine share a commitment to democracy, human rights and the rule of law; and

Whereas, Ukrainians and Ukrainian Americans have enriched our communities through their leadership and contributions in agriculture, business, academia, government and the arts; and

Whereas, on December 5, 1994, in an effort to solidify security commitments to Ukraine in return for its nuclear disarmament, the United States, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom signed the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, whereby each country pledged to respect the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine's borders while refraining from the threat or use of force against Ukraine; and

Whereas, over the past 3 decades, the Russian Federation has illegally seized Ukrainian land in Crimea; armed Russian-backed separatists, leading to thousands of deaths; interfered in elections; used chemical weapons to attempt assassinations; carried out cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns abroad; and violated international arms control agreements; and

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin abandoned diplomacy and international pleas for peace and launched an unprovoked military invasion of Ukraine; and

Whereas, this attack on Ukraine has already killed thousands of Ukrainian service members and civilians and caused an urgent international humanitarian crisis; and

Whereas, President Putin has denied the existence of Ukraine and seeks to overthrow the democratically elected government of Ukraine; and

Whereas, the Russian Federation has flagrantly violated international law in attempting to unilaterally create 2 new so-called republics on sovereign Ukrainian territory; and

Whereas, lasting peace and prosperity require respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries and respect for human rights; and

Whereas, the people of Ukraine are now engaged in an armed conflict to defend their independence and democratic way of life; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the democratic values shared by the people of Maine and the people of Ukraine; and be it further

Resolved: That the State of Maine stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine as they fight for their freedom; and be it further

Resolved: That the State of Maine condemns the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine and reiterates its support for peace, diplomacy and an immediate end to the invasion; and be it further

Resolved: That the State of Maine recognizes the importance of and commends the steps the United States has taken so far to punish the Russian government for its actions and to offer humanitarian relief to the Ukrainian people; and be it further

Resolved: That the State of Maine encourages our citizens to support Ukrainian Americans and the people of Ukraine in their urgent time of need; and be it further

Resolved: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States, and each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, on May 17, 2022, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 179, 180, and 181 while traveling to my

daughter's graduation from law school. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall vote No. 179, cloture on the nomination of Jennifer Rochon to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York; yea on rollcall vote No. 180, cloture on the nomination of Trina Thompson to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of California; and yea on rollcall vote No. 181, cloture on the nomination of Sunshine Sykes to be U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California.

On May 18, 2022, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, and 189 while attending my daughter's graduation from law school. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall vote No. 182, confirmation of Jennifer Rochon to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York; yea on rollcall vote No. 183, cloture on the nomination of Barbara Leaf to be Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs; yea on rollcall vote No. 184, confirming Barbara Leaf to be Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs; yea on rollcall vote No. 185, cloture on the nomination of Elizabeth Watson to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor; yea on rollcall vote No. 186, confirming Elizabeth Watson to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor; yea on rollcall vote No. 187, confirming Trina Thompson to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of California; yea on rollcall vote No. 188, confirming Sunshine Sykes to be U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California; and yea on rollcall vote No. 189, confirming Christopher Lowman to be Assistant Secretary of Defense.

On May 19, 2022, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 190, 191, 192, and 193 while attending my daughter's graduation from law school. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall votes Nos. 190 and 191, cloture and final passage, respectively, of H.R. 7691, the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2022. Since the beginning of Russia's brutal war, I have been a strong supporter of additional aid to Ukraine, and I am glad that this legislation passed the Senate with broad, bipartisan support.

Had I been present on May 19, I also would have voted yea on rollcall vote No. 192, cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 4008, the Small Business COVID Relief Act of 2022. This important bipartisan legislation would have provided over $40 billion in COVID relief to support restaurants, live entertainment venues, and other struggling small businesses. I have been a longtime supporter of replenishing the Restaurant Revitalization Fund and providing more aid to small businesses, so I was extremely disappointed that the Senate fell many votes short of beginning debate on S. 4008. I will continue to be a champion for Nevada's restaurants and small businesses, working to make sure they get the resources needed to get back on their feet.

Finally, had I been present on May 19, I would have voted yea on rollcall vote No. 193, cloture on the nomination of Stephanie Davis to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL CHASE DAVID PATRICK

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today, I honor a superb leader, liaison and warrior. After 2 years of service as Director of the Navy Senate Liaison Office, Chase Patrick is deservedly moving on and assuming the responsibilities of a rear admiral, lower half. I believe it is fitting to recognize Admiral Patrick's distinguished service and dedication to fostering the relationship between the U.S. Navy and the Senate.

While I was just starting my time in the Senate in 1994, Admiral Patrick was graduating from the University of Virginia that same year. He showed his value quickly upon joining the Navy and has been consistently relied upon for his exceptional leadership and unparalleled work ethic. A surface warfare officer by designation, Admiral Patrick has led our Nation's young men and women on shore and at sea, most prominently in command of USS *Chafee* (DDG–90), where the Navy selected him to receive the Vice Admiral Stockdale Award for Inspirational Leadership and Commander Destroyer Squadron 50 and Task Force 55.

Admiral Patrick has excelled in numerous other leadership positions in the Navy, most recently as the director of the Navy Senate Liaison. In Washington, DC, and around the globe, Admiral Patrick filled the role that was initially created and held by the late Senator John McCain after his return from Vietnam as a Navy Captain. Decades later, Admiral Patrick had the job of leading the Navy Senate Liaison Office through the COVID–19 pandemic, relentlessly coordinating congressional delegations for our Members and our staffs during the most troubling of times and ensuring continuity between this Chamber and the U.S. Navy.

Over the course of the last few years, Admiral Patrick led six congressional delegations to 10 different countries. He escorted over half of the Members of this Chamber on travel and became a trusted adviser and friend to many of us. I have had the pleasure of traveling with Admiral Patrick on several trips, including his first trip as director of the Navy Senate Liaison Office. He distinguished himself by going above and beyond the call of duty to facilitate and successfully execute each and every congressional delegation, despite any number of weather, aircraft, and diplomatic challenges.

This month, Admiral Patrick departs Washington for Naples, Italy, to serve as the director of Maritime Headquarters, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, Africa and Sixth Fleet. This Chamber will feel Admiral Patrick's absence. I join many past and present Members of Congress in my gratitude and appreciation to Admiral Patrick for his outstanding leadership and unwavering support of the missions of the U.S. Navy. I especially recognize his patient and supportive family, his wife Mrs. Paurenia Patrick and his children, Sara, Chase, Jr., Harry, and Oliver. I wish this Navy family ''fair winds and following seas.''

TRIBUTE TO LEE J. LOFTHUS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my appreciation for a dedicated public servant, Mr. LEE J. Lofthus of Maryland, who is retiring after nearly 40 years of public service at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Lee received his MBA from American University in 1982 and joined the Department shortly thereafter. Since then, he has served in a number of positions, including the last 16 years as its Assistant Attorney General for Administration, the highest ranking career position at the Department of Justice. In this role, he has been responsible for many duties, including serving as the Department's chief financial officer, leading its financial reporting, annual financial statement, budget formulation and execution, accounting operations, asset forfeiture fund support and debt management support. As Assistant Attorney General, he has also been the Department's chief ethics official while also overseeing its facilities, procurement, human resources, and planning. Lee also served as the Department of Justice career Agency Transition Director for every Presidential transition since 2008. His leadership has been essential to the Department's operations.

I know Lee from his role as the top Department of Justice liaison with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. In my time as both chairman and ranking member of the Senate Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I have seen firsthand Lee's deft understanding and management of the congressional appropriations process. He has been an asset to both the Department and the Appropriations Committees and will be missed by all of those who have worked with and for him.

Lee has many interests outside of his work, and he will now have the opportunity to focus more time on those interests, foremost among those his wife Dawn and his sons Mike and Austin. I also expect Lee will dedicate more time to caring for animals, including his affinity for dachshunds and his occasional adoption of a wayward bird. Lee may even find some time to indulge his devotion to Bob Dylan.

The one activity to which I am certain Lee will be devoting his time is enhancing his status as one of the Nation's leading numismatists. Lee's role as the Department of Justice's CFO makes even more sense once you learn that he has long been a nationally recognized, published, and award-winning expert on U.S. paper currency. Lee's particular emphasis is on National

Bank Notes, which were effectively a form of national currency until being discontinued in the 1930s. The ledgers Lee is familiar with are not just the ones involved in the Department's budgeting, but also the original Treasury Department ledgers tracing the return and destruction of these notes. I wish Lee continued success in this field.

Above all else, Lee will leave behind a legacy of strong, calm, and effective leadership. Few can fill the multifaceted role he held at the Department but even fewer can do so in the universally respected and admired manner that he did so.

The Nation and the Department of Justice have lost a great asset. I commend Lee for his many accomplishments and for his selfless service to this country. He will be missed. On behalf of Kansans and a grateful nation, I personally thank Lee for his service to our Nation and congratulate him on his retirement; he has earned a long and fulfilling one.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DONALD ROSS

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to Donald K. Ross, a tireless organizer for democracy. Sadly, Mr. Ross passed away on May 14, 2022, at the age of 78. He will be remembered for his lifetime of civic service and advocacy.

Born in the Bronx, NY, Mr. Ross was a leader from an early age. As student body president, he successfully revived Fordham University's football program, an experience he credited with teaching him how to organize. Upon graduation, Mr. Ross spent 2 years with the Peace Corps in Nigeria, before graduating from New York University's law school in 1970.

From there, Mr. Ross joined consumer advocate Ralph Nader's Public Citizen movement, becoming one of the original ''Nader's Raiders.'' In 1971, they co-wrote ''Action for Change: A Student's Manual for Public Interest Organizing,'' which led to the organization of Public Interest Research Groups—PRIGs—across the country. These organizations combine research and public action, encouraging public citizens to get involved in important advocacy issues. Mr. Ross became the director of the New York PRIG, where he advanced a number of political reforms and advocated for increased government transparency.

Mr. Ross was also an outspoken anti-nuclear advocate. After the tragic accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania, Mr. Ross organized anti-nuclear rallies that drew hundreds of thousands of demonstrators. That he was able to mobilize so many people in mere weeks after the accident is a testament to his leadership skills and passion for the cause.

In addition to his organizing expertise, Mr. Ross was also a dedicated philanthropist. From 1985 to 1999, he was director of the Rockefeller Family Fund, a charitable organization where he worked to expand access to grants for charitable causes. Additionally, Mr. Ross cofounded and managed the Environmental Grantmakers Association, which has grown to include over 200 member foundations around the world. A champion of numerous causes, Mr. Ross directed the National Campaign to Reform Juvenile Justice Systems from 2009 to 2017.

In my home State, Mr. Ross organized the Connecticut Citizen Action Group, a statewide organization dedicated to actively engaging residents to build a more sustainable, just society. In this and every endeavor he undertook in his remarkable career, Mr. Ross was on the frontlines of democracy, fighting to make our world a better place.

Connecticut and the Nation have lost a great civic organizer and champion of democracy. Mr. Ross's tireless devotion to many worthy causes—from environmental protection, to consumer advocacy, to criminal justice reform, and so many others—serves as a model of dedication and civic engagement. Through his work and his writings, Mr. Ross has inspired a generation of citizens to become engaged in their communities and fight for a more just world. While he will be sorely missed, his legacy will live on in those who continue his work.

My wife Cynthia and I extend our deepest sympathies to Donald's family during this difficult time, particularly to his wife Helen, and his children Katherine, Margaret, and Mike. May their many wonderful memories of Donald provide them solace and comfort in the days ahead. I hope my colleagues will join me in remembering Donald K. Ross.•

RECOGNIZING DADS ON DUTY

• Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a group of committed Louisiana fathers making a difference in their community and the lives of their children.

Violence within the halls of Southwood High School in Shreveport reached a concerning peak in the fall of 2021, when 23 students were arrested in just 3 days.

Mr. Michael LaFitte gathered 40 fellow concerned fathers, including David Telsee, III, Michael Morgan, Zachery Johnson, and Kenneth Henry, Jr., and established a wholesome presence in the halls of Southwood High. They were able to quell conflict and violence. They are promoting peace, order, and dropping dad jokes with a profound impact. They have prevented fights and arrests since forming their group, Dads on Duty. By fostering a safer environment in Southwood High, Dads on Duty has allowed the youth to focus on learning and growing.

Dads on Duty is demonstrating a strategy they believe can benefit students in other schools. They have plans to introduce this program of engaged parents in each Caddo Parish school campus moving forward.

Dads on Duty has garnered attention at the city, parish, State, and national levels—and rightfully so. I applaud their efforts and look forward to seeing how they can continue to better our communities.•

REMEMBERING BRIAN DENNIS BALBUENA

• Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable life of Brian Dennis Balbuena, a devoted son, brother, and friend who passed away on April 3, 2022, after a hard-fought battle with brain cancer.

Born March 14, 1983, Brian used his time on earth to bring joy and light into the hearts of others. Having battled and beat cancer at the age of 5, Brian enjoyed finding new ways to ''Pay it Forward'' to those around him. Brian will be remembered by his family and friends as a loving and compassionate person who had a contagious smile and a presence that brightened any room he entered.

He leaves behind his incredible parents, Tina and Mark, his siblings, Amber and Dustin, and a host of nieces and nephews. May his legacy and kind spirit serve as an inspiration to us all.•

REMEMBERING COLONEL LOUIS ''LOU'' LEE MYERS, JR.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable life of retired Colonel Louis (Lou) Lee Myers, Jr., a 38-year veteran of the Illinois Army National Guard who passed away on May 10, 2022.

Colonel Myers started his career in 1948 when he joined the Illinois Army National Guard, first serving in an ordnance company and later in a field artillery unit, a part of the Illinois' 44th Infantry Division. In 1970, Colonel Myers moved to Springfield to work for the Military and Naval Department, Facilities Division. During this time, Colonel Myers began a program to rehabilitate the old armories and facilities of the State and shortly after became the chief of facilities before rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel. He attended the Command and General Staff School and was promoted to colonel, Chief of Staff of the Illinois Army National Guard.

After his retirement in 1986, Colonel Myers continued to serve those around him as a life member of the Reserve Officer's Association, volunteer for the ombudsman for the Department of Defense, Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee, and a very active member in his church—Petersburg United Methodist Church. In 2018, Colonel Myer was recognized as one of the top 200 veterans in Illinois for the State's 200th birthday.

He leaves behind his devoted wife Paula; three daughters, Lea Ann, Ellyn, and Kate; and four sons, Larry, Donald, Joel, and Richard. May his legacy of service and kind spirit serve as an inspiration to us all.●

REMEMBERING COLONEL JAMES A. SMITH, JR.

● Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable life of Retired Colonel James A. Smith, Jr., a 31 year veteran of the Illinois Army National Guard who passed away on May 11, 2022.

Colonel Smith started his career in 1977 as an enlisted soldier, commissioning in 1982 through the Illinois Army National Guard's Officer Candidate School. He served in various staff and leadership positions throughout his career in the Illinois National Guard.

In 2003, Colonel Smith was appointed as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (G–1). In this role, he played an integral role in preparing Illinois Army National Guard units for deployment to Iraq and then Afghanistan. In 2008, before his retirement, he was appointed as the Illinois Army National Guard chief of staff before being appointed the Illinois Department of Military Affairs chief of staff that same year.

As the IDMA chief of staff, Colonel Smith supported multiple Illinois National Guard deployments, the Illinois National Guard's response to floods, hurricanes, and wildfires, the 2012 NATO Summit in Chicago, and most recently, the Illinois National Guard's COVID–19 response, as well as law enforcement support missions.

Colonel Smith was proud of being an infantry officer, a devout Catholic, and an unwavering Cardinals fan. He was a strong advocate for Lincoln's Challenge Academy and its cadets, the Illinois Military Family Relief Fund, the Illinois State Military Museum, the National Guard Association of Illinois, and, most of all, the soldiers and airmen of the Illinois National Guard and their families.

Colonel Jim Smith's voice will not be heard again in the Illinois National Guard's buildings or training areas, but his spirit will remain within this organization for many generations to come. He leaves behind his wife Nilsa and their son Sam. May his legacy of service and kind spirit serve as an inspiration to us all.●

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT ROBINSON

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today, I want to recognize and offer my sincere congratulations to Scott Robinson, director of the Port of Muskogee, on his retirement after 31 years of service. I have had the pleasure of working with Scott for a number of years, and we have done a lot of good work together.

When I came to Congress, I set out with the notion to let the world know that Oklahoma is navigable, and with Scott's help, we have been able to do that. He has been a long-time advocate for Oklahoma's inland waterways, serving on various waterways boards and commissions and testifying before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Through his advocacy and leadership, Scott and I worked quickly to help the Port of Muskogee recover after the historic 2019 floods that decimated the Arkansas River Basin, including working to deliver millions of dollars to ensure the port could rebuild for the future. Under Scott's tenure, the port has grown tremendously as he oversaw the port's expansion of property that has allowed industries to invest over $2 billion into the port's facilities and create more than 2,500 jobs. Because of Scott, the port is a true multimodal transportation hub for the region.

As port director, Scott never missed an opportunity to highlight the importance of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System—MKARNS—and its contribution to the long-term strength and security of the U.S. economy, including supporting thousands of jobs, and providing billions of dollars in sales impacts and transportation costs savings. His tireless work throughout the years has ensured that the Port of Muskogee and MKARNS system will continue to serve Oklahoma and our Nation for decades to come. Oklahoma and the entire Nation have benefited greatly from his leadership, and his legacy will not be soon forgotten.

Congratulations again, Scott, on your well-deserved retirement.●

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINNESOTA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today, I am proud to stand with my colleague, Senator SMITH, to recognize an organization that has meant so much to the people of Minnesota.

On June 4, 2022, the Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government Program celebrates its 75th anniversary. The Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government Program is a youth-led, nonpartisan, experiential learning program that develops and promotes lifelong, active, responsible citizenship in our youth. Annually, the program brings middle and high school students from across Minnesota to create a mock State government in the State capitol, complete with legislative branches for upper and lower classmen, a court, an executive branch, lobbyists, and a press corps.

The program has been developing tomorrow's leaders since 1946 and, since that time, has served over 54,000 middle school and high school students. Today, the Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government program stands as one of the largest and longest running Youth in Government programs in the Nation.

Through Youth in Government, students learn to write bills, debate issues, argue court cases, elect their own leaders, and actively participate in an authentic model of real-life legislative, executive, and judicial processes and structures. Youth in Government students learn about the importance of accountability, responsibility, and the value of getting involved in civic affairs while developing self-confidence and learning their voices matter and need to be heard within the State's—and Nation's—policy and decision-making process.

This vital program creates an environment for students to have meaningful and respectful conversations where students can learn from each other about today's issues while fully acknowledging that each student brings a different life experience to the table, a skill that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. It is through this experience that Youth in Government teaches young people that they have an important and immediate stake in the decisions that shape the future of not only the State of Minnesota, but of their Nation and the world.

The program motto for Minnesota Youth in Government is ''Democracy must be learned by each generation,'' which is more important today than ever.

I ask that my colleagues join Ms. SMITH and myself in honoring the Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government Program.

50TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF REV. DR. CALVIN McKINNEY

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize and congratulate my friend the Reverend Dr. Calvin McKinney on his 50th pastoral anniversary. Pastor McKinney has served as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of North Jersey since 1972.

Pastor McKinney's ministry is guided by Teaching and Growing a Praying People of God, whether at home in New Jersey, across our Nation, or around the world. His ministry has taken him throughout Africa, Europe, Asia, Central America, and the Caribbean Islands. Of his many accomplishments, Pastor McKinney's most memorable preaching opportunity was during the centennial session of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., in Birmingham, AL, in 1980.

In September 2009, Pastor McKinney was elected general secretary of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. He served as the youngest moderator in the history of the North Jersey District Missionary Baptist Association from 1986 to 1990, and served from 1996 through 2000 in an unprecedented tenure as one of the youngest presidents in the history of the 300,000-member General Baptist Convention of New Jersey, Inc. He was named president emeritus in recognition of his exemplary leadership.

In 2003, under the visionary leadership of Pastor McKinney, Calvary started on a journey to build a $10 million, 1,500-seat sanctuary along with

educational, fellowship, and administrative facilities. On March 19, 2006, the congregation of Calvary moved into their new home.

Pastor McKinney's extraordinary pastoral leadership is matched by his extraordinary role as a community leader. For 50 years, he has touched the lives of countless people and communities. In addition to lifting and guiding their spiritual formation, he has met the needs of his local community through the Calvary Community Development Center, CCDC. Since 1998, CCDC has empowered people and the community in order to knock down economic and social barriers. It is a resource for those who are need of food, clothing, and emergency assistance.

Pastor McKinney finds time to serve in a multitude of ways. He presently serves as chair of the Commission on Faith-Based Initiatives for the State of New Jersey. He serves as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the U.C.C. Day Care Center No. 100; trustee, Passaic County Community College; a board member of the Bergen County Urban League, NJ; an executive board member of the Garfield/Lodi Branch of the NAACP, NJ; and a member of Mt. Zion Lodge No. 50, F. & A.M. (PHA) of Hackensack, NJ.

Pastor McKinney is the embodiment of a spirit-filled and joyful life. His greatest joy comes from his beautiful family. He and his wife Brendalyn are the proud parents of three children: Terence Lamar, Gina Lynelle, and Calvin James; and the proud grandparents of Terence Laquan, Timothy Lamar, and Mason James.

In the Book of Matthew 5:16 we are taught, ''In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'' For 50 years, Pastor McKinney has been more than just a shining light; he is truly a beacon of faith, hope, and love. His ministry blesses us all.●

RECOGNIZING BENEDICTINE COLLEGE RAVENS WOMEN'S LACROSSE

● Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today, I would like to congratulate the Benedictine Ravens on a wonderful 2022 season and their NAIA National Championship victory.

Winning a national championship is no easy feat. It takes years of dedication, and this championship is the result of that dedication. You have made your school, as well as our entire State, proud. This national championship is particularly special as it is the first ever for the Benedictine Women's Lacrosse team and the first for the college since 1967.

I know many of you came here to play lacrosse, but along the way, I hope you have made lifelong friends, learned valuable lessons about hard work and determination, and given back to this community.

What makes this victory even more special is the adversity these women had to overcome. Senior Natalie Wechter, the reigning NAIA National Player of the Year, injured her knee in the semifinals. Despite this setback, through persistence and grit, the Ravens edged out their opponents by a score of 9–8.

Winning a national championship is also a full team effort. I would like to recognize a few outstanding members of the team: Ms. Wechter, as well as Clare Ryan, Aiden McEnerney, Erica Odell, and Rianna England, who received All-American honors. Additionally, Ms. Odell was named the tournament MVP.

It is also worth mentioning that this was head coach Clare Hanson's first year in the position. I congratulate all on these accomplishments.

Winning this tournament is one of those things small colleges remember and discuss for decades. It is a shared win that the whole Benedictine and Atchison community gets to appreciate and take pride in.

I commend you and the entire team for your hard work and dedication. Congratulations to the 2022 NAIA women's lacrosse champion Ravens.●

REMEMBERING ANGIE RUVO

● Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a beloved member of the Las Vegas community, Angie Ruvo, who passed away this month at the age of 98. Recognized as Las Vegas' first celebrity chef, Angie, along with her husband Lou, her sister Maria, brother-in-law Al, and son Larry, established the Venetian Pizzeria in downtown Las Vegas in 1955—the first pizza restaurant in Las Vegas. Later known as the Venetian Ristorante and Pizzeria, the famed restaurant hosted a wide array of clientele, ranging from celebrities such as Frank Sinatra—a customer so loyal he enlisted a bellman to pick up dinner for him from there every night—to tourists who traveled from across the country and all over the world to experience the warmth and comfort of Angie's cooking.

Born in Niagara Falls, Angie became the matriarch of the Las Vegas restaurant scene almost as soon as she came to Nevada, but her remarkable legacy in the Silver State goes beyond her business and culinary achievements. When her late husband Lou was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Angie embraced the role of devoted caregiver. Sharing her own experience and advice with other caregivers became a significant role for Angie, and she frequently reminded other caregivers of the importance of self-care. In 2009, Larry Ruvo and his wife Camille opened the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in his father's memory. In honor of her 94th birthday, Larry and Camille created the Angie Ruvo Endowed Caregiving Chair, which provides financial support to caregiving research at the Lou Ruvo Center.

In addition to being a champion for caregivers, Angie dedicated her life to charitable work in her community and was honored by various organizations over the years, including receiving the Augustus Society's Justinian Award, presented to notable Nevada Italian Americans. A woman praised and recognized by Senators and celebrities alike—and for whom Nevada Governors issued official proclamations—Angie lived a life of philanthropy, generosity, and dedication. Her passing marks an immeasurable loss to her family, our community, and the Nation. May her memory be a blessing.●

TRIBUTE TO KIRK MILLER

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to share a few words today to honor an outstanding Montana educator who is retiring at the end of this school year.

Kirk Miller has dedicated his career to bettering the lives of the next generation of Montanans. Over the years, Kirk served as a teacher, a principal, and a superintendent before being appointed to the Montana Board of Public Education where he later served as chair. I first got to know Kirk Miller when I was a State senator, and he was the superintendent of schools in Havre, MT. I found him to be somebody who was dedicated above all to the kids' education, somebody who knew the value of public education and always did his best to make sure our kids got an education that would allow them to compete in the worldwide economy. As Bozeman schools superintendent, Kirk played a key role in improving infrastructure for students for years to come. He championed numerous successful initiatives that supported that strengthened public education in the region and serve as a template for other communities to follow.

At the end of this year, Kirk will be retiring from his most recent position as executive director of the School Administrators of Montana, where he has worked tirelessly to support administrators and educators across the State. Those who have been lucky enough to work with Kirk recognize that he has a knack for connecting with people, even those who have different views than his own. And his passion for public education shines through in everything he does.

Under Kirk's leadership, the School Administrators of Montana established the Leaders Professional Learning Program, or SAM LPLP, a mentorship program that brings administrators from across the State together to receive student-focused, solution-based professional development training. The SAM LPLP has served more than 500 administrators to date. As a former public school teacher I commend Kirk for his steadfast commitment to improving our school system from the top down.

In addition to his work, Kirk has a lot to be proud of—in particular, the wonderful family he has built with his wife of 42 years, Nan.

A lifelong educator and a dear friend to many, Kirk has shown through his

kindness and work ethic that he is truly dedicated to bettering the lives of the next generation of Montanans.

Thank you for your service, Kirk; our Montana schools are better because of you.●

TRIBUTE TO KATE LUNDBERG

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today, I recognize Kate Lundberg, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Kate is a recent graduate of George Washington University in Washington, DC, having earned degrees in international affairs and political science. This summer, Kate plans to continue serving the American people by working on Capitol Hill. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kate for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BEN SCHELHAAS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today, I recognize Ben Schelhaas, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Ben is a recent graduate of the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD, having earned degrees in history and political science. This fall, Ben plans to pursue a master's degree in history at Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ben for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

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.)

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Julianna Michelle Childs, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Ana Isabel de Alba, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

Nusrat Jahan Choudhury, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Natasha C. Merle, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 4314. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the eligible age for the exemption from the retirement plan early withdrawal penalty for public safety officers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 4315. A bill to address the foreign production of precursor chemicals that are used for the illicit production of narcotics and psychotropic drugs and other controlled substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 4316. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to update and clarify its rule on substances generally recognized as safe and to establish within the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition of the Food and Drug Administration the Office of Food Chemical Safety Reassessment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 4317. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to codify certain clean energy targets of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 4318. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to disallow any deduction for punitive damages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 4319. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to regularly promote programs under chapter 31 of such title; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RISCH:

S. 4320. A bill to enhance security at United States diplomatic facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 4321. A bill to amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Foundation, to amend the Marine Debris Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 4322. A bill to require disclosure of foreign government subsidies in the premerger notification process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 4323. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to establish an urban Indian organization confer policy for the Department of Health and Human Services; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 4324. A bill to clarify that convictions for kidnapping or sexual abuse are grounds for inadmissibility and deportability under the Immigration and Nationality Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4325. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 4326. A bill to authorize the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to pay stipends to members of Transnational Criminal Investigative Units who have been properly vetted; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 4327. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President to provide hazard mitigation assistance for mitigating and preventing post-wildfire flooding and debris flow, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 4328. A bill to modify the fire management assistance cost share, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 4329. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out a program to provide grants and loans to support and expand the domestic solar component manufacturing supply chain, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 4330. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a loan repayment program to encourage specialty medicine physicians to serve in rural communities experiencing a shortage of specialty medicine physicians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 4331. A bill to require a plan on emergency military assistance to Taiwan and other support to Taiwan's defensive capabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 4332. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to support research and programmatic efforts that will build on previous

research on the effects of adverse childhood experiences; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 4333. A bill to deem certain products regulated by the Food and Drug Administration as drugs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor , and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 4334. A bill to support the advancement of inclusive economic growth, democratic governance, peace, and security in Colombia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CASEY, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4335. A bill to improve voter access to the ballot box through automatic voter registration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 4336. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services , in consultation with the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, to annually review and as appropriate update guidance for industry and Food and Drug Administration staff on medical device cybersecurity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. INHOFE, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 4337. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize the appointment of spouses of members of the Armed Forces who are on active duty, disabled, or deceased to positions in which the spouses will work remotely; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 4338. A bill to provide for increased transparency in generic drug applications; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 4339. A bill to support remediation of illicit cross-border tunnels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 4340. A bill to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to deny approval of a new drug application for an opioid analgesic drug on the basis of such drug not being clinically superior to other commercially available drugs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. 4341. A bill to require the Government Accountability Office to issue a report on nonprofit pharmaceutical organizations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 4342. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize a new student loan forgiveness program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. LEE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4343. A bill to require any convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response reached by the World Health Assembly to be subject to Senate ratification; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 4344. A bill to establish a temporary program for the refinancing of certain Federal and private student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 4345. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to amend the public service loan forgiveness program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 4346. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for qualified conservation contributions which include National Scenic Trails; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BENNET, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 4347. A bill to require group health plans and group or individual health insurance coverage to provide coverage for over-the-counter contraceptives; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. BURR):

S. 4348. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs, medical devices, generic drugs, and biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 48. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Egypt of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 650. A resolution recognizing May 28 as ''World Hunger Day'', that the 90th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933, known as the Holodomor, should serve as a reminder of repressive Soviet policies against the people of Ukraine, and that Vladimir Putin's illegal war against Ukraine has diminished Ukraine's agricultural output and threatens to exacerbate the problems of global hunger on World Hunger Day; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. LUJÁN, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. Res. 651. A resolution expressing support for the designation of June 3, 2022, as ''National Gun Violence Awareness Day'' and June 2022 as ''National Gun Violence Awareness Month''; to the Committee on the Judiciary .

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KING, Mr. CARPER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CASEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. COONS, Mr. REED, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. TESTER, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 652. A resolution recognizing June 2022 as ''LGBTQ Pride Month''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 653. A resolution recognizing the significance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KING, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 654. A resolution designating June 2022 as ''Great Outdoors Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 655. A resolution supporting the designation of May 13, 2022 as ''National Senior Fraud Awareness Day'' to raise awareness about the increasing number of fraudulent scams targeted at seniors in the United States, to encourage the implementation of policies to prevent those scams from happening, and to improve protections from those scams for seniors; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. Res. 656. A resolution designating May 2022 as ''Older Americans Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. Res. 657. A resolution designating May 16, 2022, as ''Older Americans Mental Health Awareness Day'' to raise awareness of the mental health needs of older adults; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. ROSEN,

Mr. BRAUN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 658. A resolution designating June 6, 2022, as ''CASA/GAL Volunteers' Day''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 659. A resolution honoring the memory of Aden Spencer Perry; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. Res. 660. A resolution expressing the condolences of the Senate on the death of the Honorable Norman Y. Mineta; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 120

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 120, a bill to prevent and respond to the misuse of communications services that facilitates domestic violence and other crimes.

S. 602

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 602, a bill to combat forced organ harvesting and trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs, and for other purposes.

S. 1079

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1079, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the troops from the United States and the Philippines who defended Bataan and Corregidor, in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service during World War II.

S. 1312

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1312, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the waiting periods for disability insurance benefits and Medicare coverage for individuals with metastatic breast cancer and for other purposes.

S. 1814

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1814, a bill to authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 2931

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2931, a bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to prevent harm and disruption to the United States agriculture industry by protecting against foreign influence over agriculture production and supply chains, and for other purposes.

S. 3518

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3518, a bill to increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 5.1 percent, and for other purposes.

S. 3607

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3607, a bill to award a Congressional gold medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 3635

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of S. 3635, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize public safety officer death benefits to officers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or acute stress disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 3711

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3711, a bill to ensure that no cost reduction or cash refund is due under certain transportation cost-reimbursement contracts on the basis of the forgiveness of certain covered loans, and for other purposes.

S. 3726

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3726, a bill to address research on, and improve access to, supportive services for individuals with long COVID.

S. 3997

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3997, a bill to amend the Land Between the Lakes Protection Act of 1998 to clarify the administration of the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

S. 4081

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4081, a bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish a grant program to assist with the purchase, installation, and maintenance of point-of-entry and point-of-use drinking water quality improvement products, and for other purposes.

S. 4105

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 4105, a bill to treat certain liquidations of new motor vehicle inventory as qualified liquidations of LIFO inventory for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 4111

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4111, a bill to support research and State management efforts relating to chronic wasting disease, and for other purposes.

S. 4134

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4134, a bill to direct the President to submit to Congress a report on United States Government efforts to collect, analyze, and preserve evidence and information related to war crimes and other atrocities committed during the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine since February 24, 2022, and for other purposes.

S. 4202

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 4202, a bill to require an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer's Project Act.

S. 4203

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 4203, a bill to extend the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 4256

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4256, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prevent food shortages, including shortages of infant formula and certain medical foods.

S. 4272

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Nevada

(Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4272, a bill to improve promotion practices in the National Guard, and for other purposes.

S. 4278

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of S. 4278, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the purchase of certain firearms by individuals under 21 years of age, and for other purposes.

S. 4304

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4304, a bill to prohibit unfair treatment of cadets and midshipmen who refuse to get the COVID–19 vaccine, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 615

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 615, a resolution expressing appreciation for the efforts of the Republic of Poland to assist Ukrainian refugees and support the sovereignty of Ukraine following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

S. RES. 636

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 636, a resolution urging the development of a strategy to counter the rise in violent crime across the United States.

S. RES. 646

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 646, a resolution expressing the Senate's support for Finland and Sweden's accession into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the expedited ratification of accession protocols.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 4315. A bill to address the foreign production of precursor chemicals that are used for the illicit production of narcotics and psychotropic drugs and other controlled substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print my bill for introduction in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The bill addresses the foreign production of precursor chemicals that are used for the illicit production of narcotics and psychotropic drugs and other controlled substances.

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

S. 4315

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 ''Protecting America from Narcotics and Illicit Chemicals Act of 2022'' or the ''PANIC Act of 2022''.

SEC. 2. MODIFIED DEFINITION OF MAJOR ILLICIT DRUG PRODUCING COUNTRY.

Section 481(e)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291(e)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (D), by inserting ''or'' after the semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(E) that is a direct source of covered synthetic drugs or psychotropic drugs or other controlled substances, including precursor chemicals, when those precursor chemicals are used in the production of such drugs and substances, significantly affecting the United States;''.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 4324. A bill to clarify that convictions for kidnapping or sexual abuse are grounds for inadmissibility and deportability under the Immigration and Nationality Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 4324

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 ''Reverse Entry for Migrant Offenders and Violence Expulsion Act''.

SEC. 2. GROUNDS FOR INADMISSIBILITY.

Section 212(a)(2)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(F)) is amended to read as follows:

''(F) KIDNAPPING; SEXUAL ABUSE.—Any alien who has been convicted of—

''(i) any offense under chapter 55 of title 18, United States Code (related to kidnapping); or

''(ii) any offense under chapter 109A of such title (related to sexual abuse),

is inadmissible.''.

SEC. 3. GROUNDS FOR DEPORTATION.

Section 237(a)(2)(D)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1227(a)(2)(D)(i)) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''chapter 55 (relating to kidnapping),'' after ''espionage),''; and

(2) by inserting ''chapter 109A (relating to sexual abuse),'' after ''sabotage),''.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 4327. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President to provide hazard mitigation assistance for mitigating and preventing post-wildfire flooding and debris flow, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 4328. A bill to modify the fire management assistance cost share, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Fire Suppression Improvement Act and the Post Fire Flooding and Debris Flow Act.

Currently, the Fire Management Assistance Grant, FMAG, Program is available to State, local, and Tribal governments for the mitigation, management, and control of fires that threaten such destruction that they would constitute a major disaster.

However, under current law, FMAGs can only be used to reimburse expenses incurred after it is granted.

The Fire Suppression Improvement Act would explicitly allow for State or local governments to use FMAGs for the predeployment of assets and resources. These predeployed assets are critical to suppression of fires and are sometimes the only way to contain a fire before it gets out of hand and needs a major disaster declaration. This bill would simply allow for FMAGs to help State and local governments cover the cost of fighting incidents from the beginning of the high-risk event.

Additionally, this bill would make FMAGs consistent with other FEMA disaster assistance by stating that the Federal cost share of FMAGs shall be not less than 75 percent of the eligible cost of such assistance. This bill does not mandate any cost share increase but simply allows for flexibility. FMAGS are granted on an incident-by-incident basis, and as we have seen across the West, fires often occur in the same area consecutively in the same year.

Wildfires leave behind severe vegetation loss and soil exposure in the form of burn scars, which can cause destructive and large-scale flooding and debris flow when exposed to rainfall. Sudden and deadly postfire events of this type are well documented throughout the Western United States, particularly in Southern California. These events are one of the most dangerous postfire hazards and pose a serious threat to life and property and have the possibility to block drainage ways and damage public infrastructure.

The Post Fire Flooding and Debris Flow Act would explicitly include mitigating and preventing postwildfire flooding and debris flow as eligible under FEMA's HMGP. This inclusion would allow for State and local governments to act quickly when storms are incoming to protect property, public infrastructure, and lives.

This bill would also make HMGP consistent with other FEMA disaster assistance by stating that the Federal cost share of HMGP shall be not less than 75 percent of the eligible cost of such assistance. This bill does not mandate any increase but simply allows for flexibility and increased federal assistance where necessary.

As States and local governments continue to step up, respond, and work to recover from more frequent and more

dangerous fires, it is imperative that the Federal Government has the flexibility to adequately support them.

These two bills represent commonsense steps forward to meet the current crisis facing the Western United States and to better support initial suppression efforts and postfire risk reduction.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 650—RECOGNIZING MAY 28 AS ''WORLD HUNGER DAY'', THAT THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UKRAINIAN FAMINE OF 1932–1933, KNOWN AS THE HOLODOMOR, SHOULD SERVE AS A REMINDER OF REPRESSIVE SOVIET POLICIES AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE, AND THAT VLADIMIR PUTIN'S ILLEGAL WAR AGAINST UKRAINE HAS DIMINISHED UKRAINE'S AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT AND THREATENS TO EXACERBATE THE PROBLEMS OF GLOBAL HUNGER ON WORLD HUNGER DAY

Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 650

Whereas Ukraine is a major global exporter of agricultural products critical to global food supplies, including wheat, corn, barley, and sunflower;

Whereas Ukrainian wheat output has decreased by 34 percent, and corn, barley, and other grain output has decreased by more than 50 percent in the past year as a result of Russia's war against Ukraine;

Whereas Russia's illegal occupation of the Crimean peninsula and Ukrainian Black Sea ports of Mariupol and Kherson, its assault on Odessa, its use of naval mines in the Black Sea and land mines in Ukraine's agricultural areas, and the destruction of Ukrainian export terminals and transportation infrastructure have severely constrained Ukraine's ability to export grain;

Whereas the number of people around the world facing acute food insecurity greatly increased from 135,000,000 in 2019, to 193,000,000 in 2021, nearly 40,000,000 people experienced emergency levels of acute food insecurity (just one step away from famine) in 2021, and the number of people experiencing such food insecurity is projected to increase in 2022;

Whereas the effects of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine are expected to increase global grain prices and disproportionately impact low- and middle-income countries in the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa who are dependent on imported Ukrainian wheat;

Whereas the totality of these actions by Russia represents an intentional and concerted effort to attack the Ukrainian agricultural sector resembling the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933, which was caused by the former Soviet Union;

Whereas, Senate Resolution 435, which was passed by the Senate on October 3, 2018, commemorated the 85th anniversary of the Holodomor and recognized the Soviet Union's role in perpetrating this genocide against the Ukrainian people;

Whereas 2022–2023 marks the 90th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933, which is also known as the Holodomor;

Whereas, in 1932 and 1933, millions of Ukrainian people perished at the will of the totalitarian Stalinist government of the former Soviet Union, which perpetrated a premeditated famine in Ukraine in an effort to break the nation's resistance to collectivization and communist occupation;

Whereas the Government of the Soviet Union deliberately confiscated grain harvests and starved millions of Ukrainian men, women, and children by a policy of forced collectivization that sought to destroy the nationally conscious movement for independence;

Whereas Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin ordered the borders of Ukraine sealed to prevent anyone from escaping the manmade starvation and to prevent the delivery of any international food aid that would provide relief to the starving;

Whereas numerous scholars worldwide have worked to uncover the scale of the famine, including Canadian wheat expert Andrew Cairns who visited Ukraine in 1932, and was told that there was no grain ''because the government had collected so much grain and exported it to England and Italy'', while Joseph Stalin simultaneously denied food aid to the people of Ukraine;

Whereas nearly a quarter of Ukraine's rural population perished or were forced into exile due to the induced starvation and the entire nation suffered from the consequences of the prolonged famine;

Whereas noted correspondents of the time were refuted for their courage in depicting and reporting on the forced famine in Ukraine, including Gareth Jones, William Henry Chamberlin, and Malcolm Muggeridge, who wrote ''[The peasants] will tell you that many have already died of famine, and that many are dying every day; that thousands have been shot by the Government and hundreds of thousands exiled. . .'';

Whereas title V of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–180; 99 Stat. 1157), which was enacted on December 13, 1985, established the Commission on the Ukraine Famine to ''conduct a study of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933 in order to expand the world's knowledge of the famine and provide the American public with a better understanding of the Soviet system by revealing the Soviet role'' in it;

Whereas, with the dissolution of the Soviet Union, archival documents became available that confirmed the deliberate and premeditated deadly nature of the famine and that exposed the atrocities committed by the Soviet government against the Ukrainian people;

Whereas Raphael Lemkin, who devoted his life to the development of legal concepts and norms for containing mass atrocities and whose tireless advocacy swayed the United Nations in 1948 to adopt the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, authored an essay in 1953 entitled ''Soviet Genocide in the Ukraine'', which highlighted the ''classic example of Soviet genocide'' characterizing it ''not simply a case of mass murder. It is a case of genocide, of destruction, not of individuals only, but of a culture and a nation'';

Whereas Ukraine's law Number 376–V, ''Law of Ukraine on the Starvation in Ukraine of 1932–1933'', which was enacted on November 28, 2006, gave official recognition to the Holodomor as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people;

Whereas on October 13, 2006, President George W. Bush signed into law Public Law 109–340, which authorized the Government of Ukraine ''to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor the victims of the Ukrainian famine-genocide of 1932-1933'', and the Holodomor Memorial was officially dedicated in November 2015;

Whereas the Government of Ukraine and the Ukrainian communities in the United States and worldwide continue their efforts to secure greater international awareness and understanding of the 1932–1933 tragedy; and

Whereas victims of the Holodomor of 1932–1933 will be commemorated by Ukrainian communities around the globe and in Ukraine through November 2022: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns Vladimir Putin's illegal war in Ukraine, and his weaponization of hunger, which has increased global food prices and food insecurity in the world;

(2) calls upon Vladimir Putin and the Russian Armed Forces to immediately cease their blockade of Ukraine's Black Sea ports to allow all Ukrainian food exports to resume;

(3) calls attention to the impending global food crisis by observing May 28, 2022 as ''World Hunger Day'';

(4) solemnly remembers the 90th anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932–1933, and extends its deepest sympathies to the victims, survivors, and families of this tragedy;

(5) condemns the systematic violations of human rights, including the freedom of self-determination and freedom of speech of the Ukrainian people by the Government of the Soviet Union;

(6) recognizes the findings of the Commission on the Ukraine Famine, as submitted to Congress on April 22, 1988, including that ''Joseph Stalin and those around him committed genocide against the Ukrainians in 1932–1933'';

(7) encourages dissemination of information regarding the Holodomor of 1932–1933 in order to expand the world's knowledge of this manmade tragedy; and

(8) supports the continuing efforts of the people of Ukraine to defend themselves against Russian aggression, to work toward ensuring democratic principles, a free economy, and full respect for human rights in order to enable Ukraine to achieve its full potential in accord with the desires of the Ukrainian people and to deepen the partnership between Ukraine, the United States, and all democratic nations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 651—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JUNE 3, 2022, AS ''NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY'' AND JUNE 2022 AS ''NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. LUJÁN, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 651

Whereas, each year in the United States, more than—

(1) 38,500 individuals are killed and 85,000 individuals are wounded by gunfire;

(2) 15,000 individuals are killed in homicides involving guns;

(3) 23,000 individuals die by suicide using a gun; and

(4) 490 individuals are killed in unintentional shootings;

Whereas, since 1968, more people have died from guns in the United States than have died on the battlefields of all the wars in the history of the United States;

Whereas 2021 was one of the deadliest years on record for the United States, with an estimated 20,700 people killed in gun homicides or nonsuicide-related shootings, a 6 percent increase over 2020;

Whereas unintentional shooting deaths by children recently increased by nearly ⅓, comparing incidents in March to December of 2020 to the same months in 2019;

Whereas, by 1 count, in 2021 in the United States, there were 693 mass shooting incidents in which at least 4 people were killed or wounded by gunfire;

Whereas, since 2010, 65,000 veterans of the Armed Forces have died by suicide in the United States, with the overwhelming majority of such deaths being the result of a firearm;

Whereas, every year in the United States, more than 3,500 children and teens are killed by gun violence and 15,000 children and teens are shot and wounded;

Whereas approximately 8,500 people in the United States under the age of 25 die because of gun violence annually, including Hadiya Pendleton, who, in 2013, was killed at 15 years of age in Chicago, Illinois, while standing in a park;

Whereas, on June 3, 2022, to recognize the 25th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton (born June 2, 1997), people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to—

(1) Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence; and

(2) the loved ones of those victims; and

Whereas June 2022 is an appropriate month to designate as ''National Gun Violence Awareness Month'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports—

(A) the designation of June 2022 as ''National Gun Violence Awareness Month'' and the goals and ideals of that month; and

(B) the designation of June 3, 2022, as ''National Gun Violence Awareness Day'', in remembrance of the victims of gun violence; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to—

(A) promote greater awareness of gun violence and gun safety;

(B) wear orange, the color that hunters wear to show that they are not targets, on National Gun Violence Awareness Day;

(C) concentrate heightened attention on gun violence during the summer months, when gun violence typically increases; and

(D) bring community members and leaders together to discuss ways to make communities safer.

SENATE RESOLUTION 652—RECOGNIZING JUNE 2022 AS ''LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH''

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KING, Mr. CARPER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CASEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. COONS, Mr. REED, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. TESTER, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 652

Whereas individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (referred to in this preamble as ''LGBTQ'') include individuals from—

(1) all States, territories, and the District of Columbia; and

(2) all faiths, races, national origins, socioeconomic statuses, disability statuses, education levels, and political beliefs;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States have made, and continue to make, vital contributions to the United States and to the world in every aspect, including in the fields of education, law, health, business, science, research, economic development, architecture, fashion, sports, government, music, film, politics, technology, literature, and civil rights;

Whereas the COVID–19 pandemic has compounded the systemic inequality that LGBTQ individuals face in the healthcare, employment, and housing systems in the United States, which has led to a disparate impact on LGBTQ individuals;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States served on the front lines during the COVID–19 pandemic as doctors, nurses, medical professionals, law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders in all States, territories, and the District of Columbia;

Whereas the persistent failure of Federal and State officials to collect full and accurate data on sexual orientation and gender identity causes tremendous harm to LGBTQ individuals in the United States, who remain largely invisible to the government entities entrusted with ensuring their health, safety, and well-being;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States serve, and have served, in the United States Army, Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force, and Marines honorably and with distinction and bravery;

Whereas a decades-long Federal policy, known as the ''Lavender Scare'', threatened and intimidated Federal public servants from employment due to their sexual orientation by alleging LGBTQ individuals posed a threat to national security, preventing many more from entering the workforce;

Whereas an estimated number of more than 100,000 brave service members were discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States between the beginning of World War II and 2011 because of their sexual orientation, including the discharge of more than 13,000 service members under the ''Don't Ask, Don't Tell'' policy in place between 1994 and 2011;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States serve, and have served, in positions in the Federal Government and State and local governments, including as members of Congress, Cabinet Secretaries, Governors, mayors, and city council members;

Whereas the demonstrators who protested on June 28, 1969, following a law enforcement raid of the Stonewall Inn, an LGBTQ club in New York City, are pioneers of the LGBTQ movement for equality;

Whereas, throughout much of the history of the United States, same-sex relationships were criminalized in many States, and many LGBTQ individuals in the United States were forced to hide their LGBTQ identities while living in secrecy and fear;

Whereas, on June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in Obergefell v. Hodges, 576 U.S. 644 (2015), that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry and acknowledged that ''[n]o union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family'';

Whereas efforts to overturn nearly 50 years of legal precedent, established through Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), and Planned Parenthood v. Casey, 505 U.S. 833 (1992), which has affirmed the constitutional right to terminate a pregnancy, could potentially undermine and erode other constitutional rights also grounded in privacy, including the right of same-sex couples to marry and even the right to engage in consensual same-sex relationships without risking criminal prosecution;

Whereas Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (referred to in this preamble as ''AIDS'') has disproportionately impacted LGBTQ individuals in the United States, due in part to a lack of funding and research devoted to finding effective treatments for AIDS and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (referred to in this preamble as ''HIV'') during the early stages of the HIV and AIDS epidemic;

Whereas gay and bisexual men and transgender women of color have a higher risk of contracting HIV;

Whereas the LGBTQ community maintains its unwavering commitment to ending the HIV and AIDS epidemic;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States face disparities in employment, healthcare, education, housing, and many other areas central to the pursuit of happiness in the United States;

Whereas 28 States have no explicit ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace, housing, or public accommodations, and 34 States have no explicit ban on discrimination against LGBTQ individuals in education;

Whereas LGBTQ youth are at increased risk of—

(1) suicide;

(2) homelessness;

(3) becoming victims of bullying, violence, or human trafficking; and

(4) developing mental health conditions, including anxiety and depression;

Whereas only 13 States and the District of Columbia have explicit policies in place to protect foster youth from discrimination based on both sexual orientation and gender identity;

Whereas LGBTQ youth of color are overrepresented in child welfare and juvenile justice systems;

Whereas the LGBTQ community has faced discrimination, inequality, and violence throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas State legislatures across the country have introduced and passed harmful legislation specifically targeting LGBTQ youth, particularly transgender youth, and their ability to obtain access to healthcare, participate in athletic activities, and learn about race, gender, and sexuality in schools;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States, in particular transgender individuals, face a disproportionately high risk of becoming victims of violent hate crimes;

Whereas members of the LGBTQ community have been targeted in acts of mass violence, including—

(1) the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida, on June 12, 2016, where 49 people were killed and 53 people were wounded; and

(2) the arson attack at the UpStairs Lounge in New Orleans, Louisiana, on June 24, 1973, where 32 people died;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States face persecution, violence, and death in many parts of the world, including State-sponsored violence;

Whereas, in the several years preceding 2019, hundreds of LGBTQ individuals around the world were arrested and, in some cases, tortured or even executed because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in countries and territories such as Chechnya, Egypt, Indonesia, and Tanzania;

Whereas, in May 2019, Taiwan became the first place in Asia to extend marriage rights to same-sex couples;

Whereas, since June 2019, Ecuador, Northern Ireland, and Costa Rica have extended marriage rights to same-sex couples, the most recent country-wide extensions of those rights in the world;

Whereas the LGBTQ community holds Pride festivals and marches in some of the most dangerous places in the world, despite threats of violence and arrest;

Whereas, in 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (division E of Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2835) into law to protect all individuals in the United States from crimes motivated by their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States have fought for equal treatment, dignity, and respect;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States have achieved significant milestones, ensuring that future generations of LGBTQ individuals in the United States will enjoy a more equal and just society;

Whereas, despite being marginalized throughout the history of the United States, LGBTQ individuals in the United States continue to celebrate their identities, love, and contributions to the United States in various expressions of Pride;

Whereas Pride is a celebration of visibility in spite of marginalization, and the LGBTQ community will continue to observe this significant cultural practice even though physical Pride celebrations may be compromised in June 2022 due to the health and safety needs of all individuals involved;

Whereas, in June 2020, the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed that existing civil rights laws prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, a landmark victory for the LGBTQ community; and

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States remain determined to pursue full equality, respect, and inclusion for all individuals regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the rights, freedoms, and equal treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (referred to in this resolution as ''LGBTQ'') individuals in the United States and around the world;

(2) acknowledges that LGBTQ rights are human rights that are to be protected by the laws of the United States and numerous international treaties and conventions;

(3) supports efforts to ensure the equal treatment of all individuals in the United States, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity;

(4) supports efforts to ensure that the United States remains a beacon of hope for the equal treatment of individuals around the world, including LGBTQ individuals; and

(5) encourages the celebration of June as ''LGBTQ Pride Month'' in order to provide a lasting opportunity for all individuals in the United States—

(A) to learn about the discrimination and inequality that the LGBTQ community endured and continues to endure; and

(B) to celebrate the contributions of the LGBTQ community throughout the history of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 653—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AS AN IMPORTANT TIME TO CELEBRATE THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF ASIAN AMERICANS, NATIVE HAWAIIANS, AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS TO THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 653

Whereas the people of the United States join together each May to pay tribute to the contributions of generations of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders who have enriched the history of the United States;

Whereas the history of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in the United States is inextricably tied to the story of the United States;

Whereas the Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community is an inherently diverse population, composed of more than 45 distinct ethnicities and more than 100 language dialects;

Whereas, according to the Bureau of the Census, the Asian-American population grew faster than any other racial or ethnic group over the last decade, surging nearly 55.5 percent between 2010 and 2020, and during that same time period, the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population grew by 30.8 percent;

Whereas there are approximately 24,000,000 residents of the United States who identify as Asian and approximately 1,600,000 residents of the United States who identify as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, making up nearly 7 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas the month of May was selected for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month because the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the first transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869, with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants;

Whereas section 102 of title 36, United States Code, officially designates May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and requests the President to issue an annual proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;

Whereas 2022 marks several important milestones for the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community, including—

(1) the 140th anniversary of the enactment of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which barred the entry of Chinese immigrants to the United States for more than 50 years and spurred a series of anti-immigrant policies targeting immigration from the Asia-Pacific region;

(2) the 40th anniversary of the murder of Vincent Chin, a Chinese-American man who was beaten to death in Michigan by 2 white men angered by layoffs in the auto industry;

(3) the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Act entitled ''An Act to designate May of each year as 'Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month' '', approved October 23, 1992 (36 U.S.C. 102); and

(4) the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions program, which was authorized under the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (Public Law 110–84; 121 Stat. 784);

Whereas Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have made significant contributions to the United States at all levels of the Federal Government and in the United States Armed Forces, including—

(1) Daniel K. Inouye, a Medal of Honor and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient who, as President pro tempore of the Senate, was the then-highest-ranking Asian-American government official in the history of the United States;

(2) Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian-American Congressman;

(3) Patsy T. Mink, the first woman of color and Asian-American woman to be elected to Congress;

(4) Hiram L. Fong, the first Asian-American Senator;

(5) Daniel K. Akaka, the first Senator of Native Hawaiian ancestry;

(6) Norman Y. Mineta, the first Asian-American member of a Presidential cabinet;

(7) Elaine L. Chao, the first Asian-American woman member of a Presidential cabinet; and

(8) Kamala D. Harris, the first woman and the first Asian American to hold the Office of the Vice President;

Whereas the 117th Congress includes a record 21 Members of Asian or Pacific Islander descent;

Whereas, in 2022, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, a bicameral caucus of Members of Congress advocating on behalf of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, is composed of 76 Members, and other caucuses working on Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander issues may be established;

Whereas, in 2022, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders are serving in State and Territorial legislatures across the United States in record numbers, including in—

(1) the States of Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming; and

(2) the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

Whereas, in 2022, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders honorably serve throughout the Federal judiciary;

Whereas Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders represent more than 6 percent of Federal employees, including hundreds of staffers of Asian or Pacific Islander descent who serve as staff in the Senate and the House of Representatives;

Whereas, according to the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, there was a 339 percent increase in anti-Asian hate

crimes in 2021, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation recorded a 73 percent increase in such crimes in 2020;

Whereas, since March 2020, there has been a dramatic increase in reports of anti-Asian hate crimes and incidents related to the COVID–19 pandemic, including approximately 11,000 hate incidents, including shunning, verbal and online harassment, physical assault, and civil rights violations, that were reported to Stop AAPI Hate from the start of the pandemic through December 31, 2021, and countless other incidents that have not been reported;

Whereas, according to a survey conducted during September and October of 2021 by Stop AAPI Hate, 1 in 5 Asian Americans (21.2 percent) and Pacific Islanders (20.0 percent) reported experiencing a hate incident in the past year;

Whereas discrimination against Asian Americans, especially in moments of crisis, is not a new phenomenon, and violence against Asian Americans has occurred throughout United States history, including—

(1) the enactment of Page Act of 1875, which restricted entry of Chinese, Japanese, and other Asian women to the United States and effectively prohibited the immigration of Chinese women, preventing the formation of Chinese families in the United States and limiting the number of native-born Chinese citizens;

(2) the enactment of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which was the first law to explicitly exclude an entire ethnic group from immigrating to the United States;

(3) the issuance of Executive Order 9066 in 1942, which authorized the forced relocation and incarceration of approximately 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry during World War II, the majority of whom were United States citizens;

(4) the murder of Vincent Chin;

(5) the Cleveland Elementary School shooting on January 17, 1989, in which a gunman used an AK–47 to kill 5 children, 4 of whom were of Southeast Asian descent;

(6) the rise in discrimination and violence against Muslim, Sikh, and South Asian Americans following the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon;

(7) the mass shooting at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, on August 5, 2012, in which a white supremacist fatally shot 6 people and wounded 4 others;

(8) the shooting of 9 people near Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16, 2021, at 3 separate Asian-owned businesses, in which 8 people were killed, including 6 Asian women; and

(9) the shooting of 6 people in Laguna Woods, California, on May 15, 2022, in which members of the Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church were targeted;

Whereas, in response to the uptick in anti-Asian hate crimes throughout the COVID–19 pandemic, Congress passed the COVID–19 Hate Crimes Act (Public Law 117–13; 135 Stat. 265), which was signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden on May 20, 2021;

Whereas the COVID–19 pandemic has deeply impacted the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community;

Whereas Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID–19 pandemic, and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have faced among the highest infection and mortality rates out of any racial group in several States;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander first responders, health care providers, and frontline workers are among the unsung heroes in the Nation's fight against COVID–19;

Whereas there remains much to be done to ensure that Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have access to resources and a voice in the Government of the United States and continue to advance in the political landscape of the United States; and

Whereas celebrating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month provides the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, and history of, and to understand the challenges faced by Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States; and

(2) recognizes that Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities enhance the rich diversity of and strengthen the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 654—DESIGNATING JUNE 2022 AS ''GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH''

Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KING, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 654

Whereas hundreds of millions of individuals in the United States participate in outdoor recreation annually;

Whereas Congress enacted the Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–249; 130 Stat. 999) to assess and analyze the outdoor recreation economy of the United States and the effects attributable to the outdoor recreation economy on the overall economy of the United States;

Whereas the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, updated in November 2021 by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce, shows that outdoor recreation generated more than $374,300,000,000 in economic output in 2020, comprising approximately 1.8 percent of the current-dollar gross domestic product;

Whereas the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account shows that, in 2020, the outdoor recreation sector provided 4,300,000 jobs across the United States;

Whereas the Great American Outdoors Act (Public Law 116–152; 134 Stat. 682) provides approximately $2,000,000,000 per year to help eliminate the maintenance backlog on public lands and waters and fully funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund;

Whereas regular outdoor recreation is associated with economic growth, positive health outcomes, and better quality of life;

Whereas outdoor recreation activities at the Federal, State, and local levels have seen a recent surge in participation;

Whereas many outdoor recreation businesses are small businesses that were heavily impacted by the COVID–19 pandemic;

Whereas outdoor recreation businesses are cornerstones of rural communities and outdoor recreation is part of the national heritage of the United States;

Whereas it is imperative that the United States ensure that access to outdoor recreation is inclusive, equitable, and available to all its people for generations to come; and

Whereas June 2022 is an appropriate month to designate as ''Great Outdoors Month'' to provide an opportunity to celebrate the importance of the great outdoors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 2022 as ''Great Outdoors Month''; and

(2) encourages all individuals in the United States to responsibly participate in recreation activities in the great outdoors during June 2022 and year-round.

SENATE RESOLUTION 655—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 13, 2022 AS ''NATIONAL SENIOR FRAUD AWARENESS DAY'' TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE INCREASING NUMBER OF FRAUDULENT SCAMS TARGETED AT SENIORS IN THE UNITED STATES, TO ENCOURAGE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES TO PREVENT THOSE SCAMS FROM HAPPENING, AND TO IMPROVE PROTECTIONS FROM THOSE SCAMS FOR SENIORS

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 655

Whereas millions of individuals age 65 or older (referred to in this preamble as ''seniors'') in the United States are targeted by scams each year, including vacation scams, Social Security impersonation scams and Internal Revenue Service impersonation scams, other government agency impersonation scams, veterans benefits scams, sweepstakes scams, romance scams, computer tech support scams, grandparent scams, debt collection scams, home improvement scams, fraudulent investment schemes, pet scams, and identity theft;

Whereas other types of fraud perpetrated against seniors include Medicare impersonation fraud, health care fraud, health insurance fraud, counterfeit prescription drug fraud, funeral and cemetery fraud, ''anti-aging'' product fraud, telemarketing fraud, charity and disaster scams, internet fraud, and cyberattacks;

Whereas the Government Accountability Office has estimated that seniors lose a staggering $2,900,000,000 each year to an ever-growing array of financial exploitation schemes and scams;

Whereas, since 2013, the Fraud Hotline of the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate has received more than 10,000 complaints reporting possible scams from individuals in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

Whereas the ease with which criminals contact seniors through the internet and telephone increases as more creative schemes emerge;

Whereas, according to the Consumer Sentinel Network Data Book 2021 released by the Federal Trade Commission, individuals age 60 or older reported losing $1,034,000,000 to fraud in 2021, with a median loss for victims age 80 or older of $1,500, nearly 3 times the median amount lost by those victims between the ages of 50 and 59;

Whereas senior fraud is underreported by victims due to shame, stigma, and lack of information about where to report fraud; and

Whereas May 13, 2022 is an appropriate day to establish as ''National Senior Fraud Awareness Day'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 13, 2022 as ''National Senior Fraud Awareness Day'';

(2) recognizes National Senior Fraud Awareness Day as an opportunity to raise

awareness about the barrage of scams that individuals age 65 or older (referred to in this resolution as ''seniors'') in the United States face in person, by mail, on the phone, via text message, and online;

(3) recognizes that law enforcement agencies, consumer protection groups, area agencies on aging, and financial institutions all play vital roles in—

(A) preventing the proliferation of scams targeting seniors in the United States; and

(B) educating seniors about those scams;

(4) encourages—

(A) the implementation of policies to prevent scams targeting seniors; and

(B) the improvement of efforts to protect seniors from those scams; and

(5) honors the commitment and dedication of the individuals and organizations that work tirelessly to fight against scams targeting seniors.

SENATE RESOLUTION 656—DESIGNATING MAY 2022 AS ''OLDER AMERICANS MONTH''

Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 656

Whereas President John F. Kennedy first designated May as ''Senior Citizens Month'' in 1963;

Whereas, in 1963, only approximately 17,778,000 individuals living in the United States were 65 years of age or older, approximately ⅓ of those individuals lived in poverty, and few programs existed to meet the needs of older individuals in the United States;

Whereas, in 2021, there were more than 55,847,953 individuals who were 65 years of age or older living in the United States, and those individuals accounted for 16.8 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas, during the COVID–19 pandemic—

(1) more than 743,016 individuals in the United States who were 65 years of age or older have died due to COVID–19; and

(2) more than 200,000 residents and workers in long-term care facilities, including more than 154,000 in nursing homes, have succumbed to the virus;

Whereas approximately 11,150 individuals in the United States turn 65 years of age each day;

Whereas, in 2021, more than 8,868,000 veterans of the Armed Forces were 65 years of age or older;

Whereas older individuals in the United States rely on Federal programs, such as programs under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), including the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) and the Medicaid program under title XIX of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), for financial security and high-quality affordable health care;

Whereas the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) provides—

(1) supportive services to help individuals in the United States who are 60 years of age or older maintain maximum independence in the homes and communities of those individuals; and

(2) funding for programs, including nutrition services, transportation, and care management, to assist more than 10,000,000 older individuals in the United States each year;

Whereas, as local aging network leaders, Area Agencies on Aging are critical partners in the healthy aging continuum;

Whereas, in 2021, an estimated 6,634,000 individuals in the United States who were 65 years of age or older continued to work as full-time, year-round employees;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play an important role in society by continuing to contribute their experience, knowledge, wisdom, and accomplishments;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play vital roles in their communities and remain involved in volunteer work, the arts, cultural activities, and activities relating to mentorship and civic engagement; and

Whereas a society that recognizes the success of older individuals and continues to enhance the access of older individuals to quality and affordable health care will—

(1) encourage the ongoing participation and heightened independence of older individuals; and

(2) ensure the continued safety and well-being of older individuals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2022 as ''Older Americans Month''; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to provide opportunities for older individuals to continue to flourish by—

(A) emphasizing the importance and leadership of older individuals through public recognition of the ongoing achievements of older individuals;

(B) presenting opportunities for older individuals to share their wisdom, experience, and skills with younger generations; and

(C) recognizing older individuals as valuable assets in strengthening communities across the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 657—DESIGNATING MAY 16, 2022, AS ''OLDER AMERICANS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY'' TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF OLDER ADULTS

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 657

Whereas May 2022 is both ''Older Americans Month'' and ''Mental Health Awareness Month'';

Whereas the population of individuals age 56 or older increased from 39,600,000 in 2009 to 54,100,000 in 2019 and is projected to reach 94,700,000 in 2060;

Whereas 20 percent of older adults suffer from a mental health condition, such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, or serious mental illness;

Whereas older adults had a higher risk of suicide compared to other age groups in 2020. In fact, during that year—

(1) individuals age 85 or older had the highest rate of suicide among all age groups; and

(2) individuals age 75 to 84 had the second highest rate of suicide among all age groups.

Whereas, according to the American Psychological Association, older adults underutilize mental health services because of service constraints, limited awareness, or a stigma surrounding mental health;

Whereas the opioid crisis and the COVID–19 pandemic have negatively impacted the behavioral health of older adults;

Whereas aging could possibly lead to social and physical changes that may increase vulnerability to substance use disorders;

Whereas poor mental health and substance use disorders reduce life expectancy among older adults and increase the risk of adverse health outcomes and conditions, such as heart disease, dementia, and diabetes;

Whereas mental health disorders for older adults, especially depression and anxiety, are major contributors to and exacerbate social isolation;

Whereas mental health diagnoses drive spending in the Medicare and Medicaid programs for an already high-cost population;

Whereas spending for individuals with a mental health disorder is more than twice that for individuals who are eligible for both such programs without such a diagnosis;

Whereas more than one-tenth of individuals age 65 or older binge drink, which is defined as drinking 5 or more drinks on the same occasion for men or 4 or more drinks on the same occasion for women; and

Whereas by 2030, the United States will need 5,790 more geropsychologists to meet the needs of older adults in the United States, highlighting the need for outreach to increase availability of trained specialists: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 16, 2022, as ''Older Americans Mental Health Awareness Day'';

(2) recognizes the unmet mental health and substance use disorder needs of older adults;

(3) recognizes the need for a robust mental health and substance use disorder workforce trained in the unique needs of older adults to screen, assess, and intervene as appropriate; and

(4) recognizes the need to advance bipartisan solutions to address the mental health needs and substance use disorder needs of older adults.

SENATE RESOLUTION 658—DESIGNATING JUNE 6, 2022, AS ''CASA/GAL VOLUNTEERS' DAY''

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 658

Whereas Court Appointed Special Advocate (referred to in this preamble as ''CASA'') and Guardian ad Litem (referred to in this preamble as ''GAL'') volunteers advocate nationwide for the best interests of children before courts in cases with allegations of abuse or neglect;

Whereas CASA and GAL volunteers advocate for the best interests of children by relying on guiding principles that recognize the importance of equity, diversity, inclusion, collaboration, and family preservation and reunification;

Whereas more than 216,000 children in the United States enter the foster care system, through no fault of their own, due to allegations of abuse or neglect and rely on adults to advocate on their behalf;

Whereas CASA and GAL volunteers, appointed by a judge—

(1) provide the court with the comprehensive and objective information the court needs to make the most well-informed decisions and help ensure positive outcomes for children, youth, and families; and

(2) take time to build meaningful and authentic relationships with such children, youth, and families;

Whereas research shows that when a CASA or GAL volunteer is assigned to a case, outcomes are strengthened for children and families, a higher number of services are ordered, and children are significantly less likely to reenter the child welfare system, perform better academically and behaviorally, and have higher levels of hope;

Whereas, in January 1974, Congress enacted the Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.);

Whereas the Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act provides financial assistance to States for the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect and includes a requirement that in every case a GAL must be appointed to represent the best interest of the child;

Whereas such GAL requirement was subsequently amended to provide that the GAL may be an attorney or a court-appointed special advocate;

Whereas, today, CASA and GAL volunteers span 49 States and the District of Columbia, including 950 State organizations and local programs, and more than 94,000 volunteers offer their services to nearly 250,000 children, youth, and families; and

Whereas 2022 marks the 40th anniversary of the National CSA/GAL Association for Children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 6, 2022, as ''National CASA/GAL Volunteers' Day''; and

(2) commends CASA and GAL volunteers for their dedication and hard work in advocating for the best interests of children so that every child who has experienced abuse or neglect can be safe, have a permanent home, and have the opportunity to thrive.

SENATE RESOLUTION 659—HONORING THE MEMORY OF ADEN SPENCER PERRY

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 659

Whereas Aden Spencer Perry was born on December 11, 2004;

Whereas Aden was a junior at Western High School in Davie, Florida, where he excelled academically;

Whereas Aden received the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Award for Mathematics and Science and achievement awards in Advanced Placement Calculus AB, Advanced Placement English Literature, and Advanced Placement Capstone Research and was accepted into the National Honor Society;

Whereas Aden was set to graduate at the top of his class;

Whereas, on April 19, 2022, while walking with his mother in Sunrise, Florida, Aden witnessed a car crash into a lake and, without concern for his own safety, jumped into the water to assist the driver;

Whereas Aden exhibited honor in this selfless act for a stranger;

Whereas the lives of both Aden and the driver of the vehicle were tragically cut short;

Whereas Aden brought joy to all who knew him;

Whereas Aden was a skilled pianist and aspired to become a neurosurgeon;

Whereas, in recognition of Aden's selfless and heroic act, on May 10, 2022, Mayor Michael Udine posthumously awarded Aden with the Broward County Medal of Valor; and

Whereas May 10 will now be Aden Perry Day in Broward County: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and memory of Aden Spencer Perry; and

(2) offers heartfelt condolences to the family, loved ones, and friends of Aden Perry, and recognizes that Aden's spirit lives on through them and selfless acts towards strangers in need.

SENATE RESOLUTION 660—EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE NORMAN Y. MINETA

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. PADILLA) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 660

Whereas Norman Yoshio Mineta (referred to in this preamble as ''Norman Y. Mineta'') was born in San Jose, California on November 12, 1931;

Whereas, as a young child during World War II, Norman Y. Mineta and his family were unjustly sent to Heart Mountain Relocation Camp in Park County, Wyoming by the United States Government due to their Japanese ancestry;

Whereas Norman Y. Mineta returned to San Jose with his family after World War II, graduated from San Jose High School, and went on to earn a degree in business administration from the University of California, Berkeley;

Whereas Norman Y. Mineta honorably served as a United States Army intelligence officer in Japan and Korea before returning home and joining the insurance business run by his father;

Whereas, in 1967, Norman Y. Mineta became the first person of color to serve on the San Jose City Council and, in 1971, was elected as the 59th Mayor of San Jose, becoming the first Asian American to serve as mayor of a major city in the United States;

Whereas Norman Y. Mineta was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1974, where he served as president of the freshman class and went on to spend more than 20 years, during which time he never forgot a name;

Whereas Norman Y. Mineta was a champion of civil rights and cosponsored the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (50 U.S.C. 4211 et seq.), which—

(1) was signed into law by President Ronald W. Reagan; and

(2) expressed a formal apology to the thousands of individuals of Japanese ancestry in the United States who were forced into internment camps during World War II and offered $20,000 payments to each individual;

Whereas Norman Y. Mineta distinguished himself as an expert on transportation issues and an advocate for mass transit, serving as Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

Whereas Norman Y. Mineta entered the private sector after leaving Congress, but continued to serve the United States as Chairman of the National Civil Aviation Review Commission;

Whereas Norman Y. Mineta was nominated by President William J. Clinton in 2000 to be the United States Secretary of Commerce;

Whereas Norman Y. Mineta was nominated by President George W. Bush in 2001 to serve as the United States Secretary of Transportation;

Whereas, while serving as Secretary of Transportation on September 11, 2001, Norman Y. Mineta secured the airspace of the United States by ordering all civilian air traffic to land immediately and implemented new security protocols to ensure the safety of air travelers;

Whereas Norman Y. Mineta was the loving husband of Danealia Brantner Mineta, and father of David Mineta, Stuart Mineta, Robert Brantner, and Mark Brantner; and

Whereas Norman Y. Mineta was known for his warm personality, commitment to public service, accessibility and accountability, and passion for his work: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Norman Yoshio Mineta, former member of the United States House of Representatives, former Secretary of Commerce, and former Secretary of Transportation;

(2) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Norman Yoshio Mineta; and

(3) when the Senate adjourns today, stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Norman Yoshio Mineta.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I have 514 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 allowing committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 11 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

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 Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 9 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE, TRANSNATIONAL CRIME, CIVILIAN SECURITY, DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES

The Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues of the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Joshua Kretman, a detailee from the State Department to the Foreign Relations Committee, be granted floor privileges for the duration of the 117th Congress.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2022, THROUGH MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for a pro forma session only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times: Friday, May 27, at 9:30 a.m.; Tuesday, May 31, at 11 a.m.; and Friday, June 3, at 4:30 p.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, June 3, it next convene at 3 p.m. on Monday, June 6; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Wagner nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 660.

There being no objection, as a further mark of respect to the late Norman Y. Mineta, former Congressman and Secretary of Commerce and Treasury, from California, the Senate, at 4:32 p.m., adjourned until Friday, May 27, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

LAURA TAYLOR–KALE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. (NEW POSITION)

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

SUE ELLEN MOORE, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 13, 2023, VICE MICHAEL F. TILLMAN, TERM EXPIRED.

ANDREW J. READ, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 13, 2025, VICE DARYL J. BONESS, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ANGELA PRICE AGGELER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA.

MARIE C. DAMOUR, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI, THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU, THE KINGDOM OF TONGA, AND TUVALU.

MARK W. LIBBY, OF MASSACHUSETTS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN.

GAUTAM A. RANA, OF NEW JERSEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROSEMARIE HIDALGO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, VICE SUSAN B. CARBON.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 26, 2022:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MARCIA STEPHENS BLOOM BERNICAT, OF NEW JERSEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF THE MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

STEVEN SCOTT CLIFF, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

ANDREW FOIS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS .

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CHRISTOPHER A. COES, OF GEORGIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION.

MORRIS K. UDALL AND STEWART L. UDALL FOUNDATION

DENIS UDALL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MORRIS K. UDALL AND STEWART L. UDALL FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 15, 2023.

TERESA ARRINGTON FOX UDALL, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MORRIS K. UDALL AND STEWART L. UDALL FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2022.

DENIS UDALL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MORRIS K. UDALL AND STEWART L. UDALL FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 15, 2029.

TERESA ARRINGTON FOX UDALL, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MORRIS K. UDALL AND STEWART L. UDALL FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2028.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. JOHN P. COGBILL
COL. GEOFFREY A. NORMAN
COL. SAMUEL L. PETERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. CRAIG S. GATZEMEYER

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. ROBERT B. BRODIE
COL. MICHAEL A. BROOKS, JR.
COL. KEVIN G. COLLINS
COL. FRIDRIK FRIDRIKSSON
COL. MAURA M. HENNIGAN
COL. GARRETT R. HOFFMAN
COL. STEPHEN J. LIGHTFOOT
COL. ANDREW T. PRIDDY
COL. JAMES A. RYANS II
COL. DAVID C. WALSH

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MILFORD H. BEAGLE, JR.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOHN D. LAMONTAGNE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. LEONARD J. KOSINSKI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. STEVEN L. BASHAM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

BRIG. GEN. CAROLINE M. MILLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. TIMOTHY D. HAUGH

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOHN P. SULLIVAN

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 8035:

To be admiral

VICE ADM. LISA M. FRANCHETTI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) CRAIG A. CLAPPERTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE OF VICE ADMIRAL WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 8081:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) RICHARD J. CHEESEMAN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601, AND FOR APPOINTMENT AS A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C, SECTION 711:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. STEPHEN T. KOEHLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. SARA A. JOYNER

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ANDREA D. TULLOS

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. ROBERT J. HUTT
COL. ANTHONY J. MASTALIR
COL. JACOB MIDDLETON, JR.
COL. KRISTEN L. PANZENHAGEN
COL. BRIAN D. SIDARI

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 major general

BRIG. GEN. JAMES J. KOKASKA, JR.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. GREGORY M. GUILLOT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ALEXUS G. GRYNKEWICH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. RICHARD G. MOORE, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL J. SCHMIDT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE SERVING IN THAT POSITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 6010 AND 9037:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. CHARLES L. PLUMMER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. STEVEN W. GILLAND

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. OMAR J. JONES IV

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JAMES B. JARRARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. KEVIN VEREEN

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. BRIAN W. CAVANAUGH

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY WHILE SERVING AS CHIEF PROSECUTOR FOR MILITARY COMMISSIONS UNDER ARTICLE II, SECTION 2, CLAUSE 2 OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND SECTION 1037 OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. AARON C. RUGH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. FRANK M. BRADLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. MICHAEL E. BOYLE

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. JEREMIAH J. CRUZ

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. JASON B. NICHOLSON
COL. PATRICK A. TEAGUE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. ROGER S. GIRAUD
COL. LANCE C. RANEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. GAIL E. ATKINS
COL. AMANDA I. AZUBUIKE
COL. PHILLIP C. BAKER
COL. WAYNE E. BARKER
COL. MAURICE O. BARNETT
COL. MATTHEW W. BROWN
COL. JONATHAN C. BYROM
COL. STEVEN P. CARPENTER
COL. RHETT R. COX
COL. FREDERICK L. CRIST
COL. DALE S. CROCKETT
COL. JASON A. CURL
COL. SEAN P. DAVIS
COL. JAMES K. DOOGHAN
COL. ANTOINETTE R. GANT
COL. BERNARD J. HARRINGTON
COL. DANIEL H. HIBNER
COL. GREGORY S. JOHNSON
COL. MARTINE S. KIDD
COL. JOSEPH G. LOCK
COL. FRANCISCO J. LOZANO
COL. JOHN W. LUBAS
COL. REBECCA B. MCELWAIN
COL. MARK D. MILES
COL. SHANE P. MORGAN
COL. KIMBERLY A. PEEPLES
COL. CHRISTOPHER D. SCHNEIDER
COL. MICHAEL J. SIMMERING
COL. JASON C. SLIDER
COL. MARNE L. SUTTEN
COL. GEOFFREY R. VANEPPS
COL. BRIAN D. VILE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. PAULA C. LODI

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL S. CEDERHOLM

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

BENNY R. WAGNER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY.

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF EVEN THOMAS ROGERS, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JUSTINE E. FEASTER, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JOSHUA J. KIM, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF GUILENE C. DERISMA, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF BENJAMIN M. PANCOAST, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JONATHON B. HABA AND ENDING WITH ROBERT C. LIVINGSTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 5, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF RONALD HUSTWIT, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS E. ACCUOSTI AND ENDING WITH SEAN L. ZOUFALY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 12, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIEL STEPHEN ADAMS AND ENDING WITH SPENCER G. WOOD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 12, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CODY L. ADKINS AND ENDING WITH HONGHAO WU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 12, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MONICA C. ABONGAN AND ENDING WITH ALEXIS B. ZUNIGA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 12, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ZAHI Y. ABI CHAKER AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW T. ZETTLER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 12, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ABIGAIL M. AKYEAMPONG AND ENDING WITH NICHOLE L. YANG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 12, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MYRON G. ACOSTA AND ENDING WITH MOSHOOD A. YINUSA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 12, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MEGAN E. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH BENJAMIN J. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 12, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ARIF NASIR ALI AND ENDING WITH JOHN THOMAS ZUPANCIC, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 12, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY M. AANERUD AND ENDING WITH KRISTEN M. ZEIGLER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 12, 2022.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF LARRY J. SAUNDERS, JR., TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAPHNE C. MITCHELL WRIGHT, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DEVANIE N. JOHNSON, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RALPH C. MERRILL, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JASON S. WENGER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MATTHEW T. ETHERIDGE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAVID S. YU, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF VICTOR F. SORANO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LAURA A. PROFFIT, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF D011783, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOSEPH F. CAPETILLO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOSEPH T. REUBEN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LYMAN S. REYNOLDSON, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARK J. BROOKS AND ENDING WITH HAROLD G. WOOMER, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2022.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRIAN R. SEIDEL, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEVE BLACKWELL AND ENDING WITH KEVIN J. PARK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2022.

ARMY NOMINATION OF WAYNE A. DUNLAP, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRIAN M. STIERITZ, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAVID C. HILLING, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER R. THIELENHAUS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH VALERIA A. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH MELVILLE C. WILSON, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 2, 2022.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GLENN P. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH ROBERT ZIZOLFO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 2, 2022.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TODD W. ATKINSON AND ENDING WITH GEORGE E. ZUNIGA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 2, 2022.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RJ X. NIESEN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROBERT A. KEARNEY, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRANDON S. FLETCHER, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DANIEL S. RHOADES, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF KIRK J. PORTER, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOHN A. MAILMAN, JR., TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MABEL L. BALDUF AND ENDING WITH JIMMY J. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 31, 2022.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF SCOTT T. WILBUR, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF RITCHIE L. TAYLOR, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF NEIL JAIN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF SCOTT C. DEMARCO, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF DAVID D. NOVOTNEY, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ELIZABETH C. MERRELL, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER .

NAVY NOMINATION OF THOMAS M. ALLEN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF COBY S. CROFT, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF LEONARD E. HAYNES, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JOHN P. THOMPSON, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RYAN M. FITZGERALD AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW C. WELCH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2022.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ANDREW E. HINKLEY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF THOMAS H. WRIGHT, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ROBERT D. CROXSON, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GREGORY J. ANDREWS AND ENDING WITH KATHLEEN T. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 5, 2022.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KEITH M. MORRIS AND ENDING WITH KEITH J. LASHOMB, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 2, 2022.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES D. BROOKS AND ENDING WITH MAHESA B. SUPROBO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 2, 2022.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2713–S2763

Measures Introduced: Thirty-five bills and twelve resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4314–4348, S.J. Res. 48, and S. Res. 650–660. **Pages S2751–52**

Measures Failed:

Screening and consideration of Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and CAT Protection Claims by Asylum Officers: By 46 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 211), Senate failed to pass S.J. Res. 46, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security relating to ''Procedures for Credible Fear Screening and Consideration of Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and CAT Protection Claims by Asylum Officers''. **Pages S2721–22**

Subsequently, Senator McConnell entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which passage failed. **Page S2722**

Measures Passed:

GAO Database Modernization Act: Senate passed S. 629, to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to require Federal agencies to submit to the Comptroller General of the United States a report on rules that are revoked, suspended, replaced, amended, or otherwise made ineffective, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2735**

MAPS Act: Senate passed S. 1941, to direct the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to standardize the use of core-based statistical area designations across Federal programs, to allow between 120 and 180 days for public comment on any proposed change to such designations, and to report on the scientific basis and estimated impact to Federal programs for any proposed change to such designations, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S2735–36**

CTPAT Pilot Program Act: Senate passed S. 2322, to require a pilot program on the participation of non-asset-based third-party logistics providers in the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S2736–37**

VA Electronic Health Record Transparency Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4591, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress periodic reports on the costs, performance metrics, and outcomes of the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization program, and the bill was then passed. **Page S2737**

Security Treaty 70th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 341, commemorating the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Security Treaty among Australia, New Zealand, and the United States of America. **Page S2737**

Operation Allies Refuge: Senate agreed to S. Res. 390, expressing appreciation for the State of Qatar's efforts to assist the United States during Operation Allies Refuge. **Page S2737**

U.S. and Baltic States Diplomatic Relations: Senate agreed to S. Res. 499, celebrating 100 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Baltic States. **Page S2737**

United States-Africa Leaders Summit: Senate agreed to S. Res. 538, expressing support for a second United States-Africa Leaders Summit as an important opportunity to strengthen ties between the United States and African partners and build on areas of mutual interest. **Page S2737**

Republic of Poland Support for Ukraine: Senate agreed to S. Res. 615, expressing appreciation for the efforts of the Republic of Poland to assist Ukrainian refugees and support the sovereignty of Ukraine following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. **Page S2737**

Calling for the Immediate Release of Vladimir Kara-Murza: Senate agreed to S. Res. 632, calling for the immediate release of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza, who was unjustly detained on April 11, 2022. **Page S2737**

Great Outdoors Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 654, designating June 2022 as ''Great Outdoors Month''. **Page S2737**

National Senior Fraud Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 655, supporting the designation of May 13, 2022 as ''National Senior Fraud Awareness Day'' to raise awareness about the increasing number of fraudulent scams targeted at seniors in the United States, to encourage the implementation of policies to prevent those scams from happening, and to improve protections from those scams for seniors. **Pages S2737–38**

Older Americans Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 656, designating May 2022 as ''Older Americans Month''. **Pages S2737–38**

Older Americans Mental Health Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 657, designating May 16, 2022, as ''Older Americans Mental Health Awareness Day'' to raise awareness of the mental health needs of older adults. **Pages S2737–38**

CASA/GAL Volunteers' Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 658, designating June 6, 2022, as ''CASA/GAL Volunteers' Day''. **Pages S2737–38**

Aden Spencer Perry: Senate agreed to S. Res. 659, honoring the memory of Aden Spencer Perry. **Page S2738**

Norman Y. Mineta: Senate agreed to S. Res. 660, expressing the condolences of the Senate on the death of the Honorable Norman Y. Mineta. **Page S2738**

Measures Considered:

Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 350, to authorize dedicated domestic terrorism offices within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to analyze and monitor domestic terrorist activity and require the Federal Government to take steps to prevent domestic terrorism. **Pages S2713–21**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 47 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 210), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S2721**

Subsequently, Senator Schumer entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S2721**

Honoring our Pact Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances. **Page S2729**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Alex Wagner, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force. **Pages S2728–29**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2726**

Authorizing Leadership to Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate. **Page S2735**

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, May 27, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.; Tuesday, May 31, 2022, at 11 a.m.; and Friday, June 3, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, June 3, 2022, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Monday, June 6, 2022. **Page S2761**

Wagner Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Alex Wagner, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force. **Pages S2728–29**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, May 26, 2022 a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 6, 2022. **Page S2761**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2728**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, June 6,

2022; and that the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of Thursday, May 26, 2022 ripen at 5:30 p.m. **Page S2761**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 82 yeas to 10 nays (Vote No. EX. 212), Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of the Minister-Counselor, to be Director General of the Foreign Service. **Pages S2723–26**

Steven Scott Cliff, of California, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Andrew Fois, of the District of Columbia, to be Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States for a term of five years.

Christopher A. Coes, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

Benny R. Wagner, of Tennessee, to be Inspector General of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Denis Udall, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring April 15, 2023.

Teresa Arrington Fox Udall, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2022.

Denis Udall, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring April 15, 2029.

Teresa Arrington Fox Udall, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2028. **Page S2729**

12 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

48 Army nominations in the rank of general.

12 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

8 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

5 Space Force nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force. **Pages S2729–31**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Laura Taylor-Kale, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Sue Ellen Moore, of Washington, to be a Member of the Marine Mammal Commission for a term expiring May 13, 2023.

Andrew J. Read, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Marine Mammal Commission for a term expiring May 13, 2025.

Angela Price Aggeler, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of North Macedonia.

Marie C. Damour, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Fiji, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu.

Mark W. Libby, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Gautam A. Rana, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Slovak Republic.

Rosemarie Hidalgo, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Violence Against Women Office, Department of Justice. **Page S2761**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S2751**

Notice of a Tie Vote Under S. Res. 27: **Pages S2741, S2746**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2753–54**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2754–60**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2748–51**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2760**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S2761**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—212) **Pages S2721–22, S2725–26**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Norman Y. Mineta, in accordance with S. Res. 660, at 4:32 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, May 27, 2022. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2761.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FARMERS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine opportunities and challenges facing farmers, families, and rural communities, after receiving testimony from Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture.

APPROPRIATIONS: NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2023 for the Navy and Marine Corps, after receiving testimony from Carlos Del Toro, Secretary of the Navy, Admiral Michael M. Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations,

and General David H. Berger, Commandant of the Marine Corps, all of the Department of Defense.

NOMINATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of General Christopher G. Cavoli, USA for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United States European Command and Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, Department of Defense, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NINTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues concluded a hearing to examine the Ninth Summit of the Americas, after receiving testimony from Kevin O'Reilly, Summit of the Americas National Coordinator, Department of State; and Eric Farnsworth, Council of the Americas, and Rebecca Bill Chavez, Inter-American Dialogue, both of Washington, D.C.

INFANT FORMULA CRISIS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the infant formula crisis, focusing on addressing the shortage and getting formula on shelves, after receiving testimony from Robert M. Califf, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 3635, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1986 to authorize public safety officer death benefits to officers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or acute stress disorder, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of Julianna Michelle Childs, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Ana Isabel de Alba, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, and Nusrat Jahan Choudhury, and Natasha C. Merle, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 9 a.m. on Friday, May 27, 2022.

Committee Meetings

FISCAL YEAR 2023 PUBLIC WITNESS DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled ''Fiscal Year 2023 Public Witness Day''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing entitled ''Defense Environmental Restoration''. Testimony was heard from Richard Kidd, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Environment and Energy Resilience; Amy Borman, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health; Karnig Ohannessian, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Environment; and Nancy Balkus, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Environment, Safety and Infrastructure.

MANUFACTURED HOUSING: SUPPORTING AMERICA'S LARGEST UNSUBSIDIZED AFFORDABLE HOUSING STOCK

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled ''Manufactured Housing: Supporting America's Largest Unsubsidized Affordable Housing Stock''. Testimony was heard from Michael Liu, Director, Miami-Dade County Public Housing and Community Development Department, Florida; and public witnesses.

THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE'S BUDGET AND ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The Congressional Budget Office's Budget and Economic Outlook''. Testimony was

heard from Phillip Swagel, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

EXAMINING THE POLICIES AND PRIORITIES OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Committee on Education and Labor: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Education''. Testimony was heard from Miguel Cardona, Secretary, Department of Education.

LEGISLATIVE HEARING TO PROTECT CONSUMERS AND STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMY

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce held a hearing entitled ''Legislative Hearing to Protect Consumers and Strengthen the Economy''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DIGITAL ASSETS AND THE FUTURE OF FINANCE: EXAMINING THE BENEFITS AND RISKS OF A U.S. CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Digital Assets and the Future of Finance: Examining the Benefits and Risks of a U.S. Central Bank Digital Currency''. Testimony was heard from Lael Brainard, Vice Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

THE STATE OF THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security held a hearing entitled ''The State of the Transportation Security Administration''. Testimony was heard from David Pekoske, Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security.

A REVIEW OF THE DECADAL STRATEGY FOR PLANETARY SCIENCE AND ASTROBIOLOGY 2023–2032

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics held a hearing entitled ''A Review of the Decadal Strategy for Planetary Science and Astrobiology 2023–2032''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2022

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Friday, May 27

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, May 27

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9 a.m.

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