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No. 5

House of Representatives

The House met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STRONG).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 9, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DALE W. STRONG to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

You, O Lord, are our rock, our fortress, and our deliverer. Be the sanctuary in which all those who flee from the deadly Palisades, Hurst, and Hollywood Hills wildfires in California can find refuge. Be their shield against the flames which threaten to engulf them, their stronghold in the midst of destruction.

Hear all those who call to You in their distress, the street people and the screen stars, and all whose homes and livelihoods are endangered. Hear those who cry to You for help. Hear their voices, and may their cries reach Your ears, that You would shelter them from the fires raging around them.

Gird up the first responders, the firefighters, the emergency medical personnel, and the rescue teams with Your strength. Be their shield and defender, that they may be effective agents in saving the imperiled. Arm their hands for the battle before them. Equip them with the weapons of deliverance. Keep them from growing weary in the face of the relentless hours ahead, and protect them from all harm.

These, our fellow Americans, are precious in Your sight. Give them shelter

in these days within the protection of Your loving arms.

In Your saving name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. LUTTRELL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

It is a privilege to honor the more than 800,000 sworn officers serving across the United States for their unwavering dedication to upholding the law and safeguarding our communities.

The challenges they face and the importance of their work cannot be overstated.

Since its establishment in 2015, National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day has been observed annually on January 9. This day provides a meaningful opportunity for our Nation to express gratitude for the brave men and women who wear the badge with honor and integrity.

I thank the Capitol Police, the Secret Service, and the Metropolitan Police Department for their continuous efforts to keep us safe here in our Nation's Capital.

I am also deeply grateful to the law enforcement officers in my home State of Pennsylvania, including the State troopers and the dedicated local police departments across the 15th District, for their steadfast commitment to protecting our families and communities.

I thank all law enforcement officers across the United States for their selfless service and the sacrifices they make every day in defense of public safety.

HONORING PAUL REYES

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and to pay tribute to the late Paul Reyes, a boxing legend from Fort Worth, Texas.

Paul was not only a legend in the ring, but he was also a man of humility and great faith.

If my colleagues followed boxing in the 1980s and 1990s, they will remember Donald "The Cobra" Curry and Paulie Ayala, who were world champions. They were students of Paul Reyes.

Paul's gym was more than just a place to go train for boxing. His gym was a place to keep kids off of the streets and give them a different direction to go in. Again, he trained some of

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

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



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the most amazing boxers in the country and really put Fort Worth, Texas, on the map for this sport.

He was a beloved member of the community. He is going to be missed, and I want everyone to know what an important legend and icon this man was. He truly changed Fort Worth and made the lives of so many young people better.

HONORING PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

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

Mr. JACK. Mr. Speaker, today, as our country remembers the life of the only President from my home State of Georgia, I rise to honor a few notable moments of President Jimmy Carter's legacy within Georgia's Third Congressional District.

President Carter was an avid fan of NASCAR, and he enjoyed many races at Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton.

As Governor in 1971, he celebrated the 150th anniversary of Fayette County. In 1973, he visited Newnan as a part of his Operation Feedback tour.

He traveled to Meriwether County several times. Through his leadership as Governor, the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation continued to care for Georgians with disabilities.

He purchased his suits from Bowdon in Carroll County, and he enjoyed Chick-fil-A sandwiches during his many visits to Columbus.

Following his Presidency, he honored my hometown, Peachtree City, by leading our Independence Day parade in 1995. In 2003, working with Habitat for Humanity, President Carter built over 20 homes for Georgians in need in LaGrange.

I thank the Fayette County Historical Society, The Newnan Times-Herald, the Meriwether Historical Society, and the Heard County Historical Center and Museum for helping to compile this research, allowing me to honor the life and legacy of a remarkable Georgian, the 39th President of the United States of America, Jimmy Carter.

READY TO DELIVER

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

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the people of Oregon that I am ready to deliver for them. As someone who has lived, operated businesses, and raised my four children in our community, I know that families are struggling and feel like their voice isn't heard.

I am here to say that I am listening and I am fighting for our families. My top priorities are making sure that our kids are learning, healthy, and thriving; supporting hardworking families who feel like their government has left

them behind; and working to bring new and good jobs back to Oregon. I will work with anyone to do it.

It is important to me to have open communication with my constituents so that they can always contact me and get updates from me by going to my website at bynum.house.gov.

I thank my constituents for trusting me.

COMMONSENSE MAGA AGENDA

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the FBI defines "domestic terrorism" as: "Violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups to further ideological goals stemming from domestic influences . . ."

America is experiencing an ongoing war, as witnessed in New Orleans, in Las Vegas, and a plot to kill in Florida.

The moral fabric of America has suffered with 4 years of Biden-Harris policies, including dangerous open borders, destroyed jobs, crushing inflation, campus anti-Semitism, woke mentality, the failure to lead globally, and more.

Unified Republican leadership will advance the conservative agenda to make America great again.

Corrupt Judge Merchan has shamefully revealed Trump derangement by scheduling sentencing. This confirms the lawfare backfiring, electing Donald Trump, with the corrupt judge receiving my invitation for the Trump inauguration, which he unintentionally promoted.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators put all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent as warned by the FBI. Trump will reinstitute existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HECTOR SERRANO

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

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and enduring legacy of Hector Serrano, beloved artist, storyteller, and visionary creator of Viva! El Paso.

For over four decades, Hector brought the history and culture of our region to life through the magic of Viva! El Paso. His groundbreaking work celebrated the diverse stories of the borderland, intertwining the heritage of indigenous, Mexican, Spanish, Anglo, and Fort Bliss communities through music, dance, and drama. His passion turned Viva! El Paso into an iconic tradition that has captivated audiences, inspired pride in our shared history, and has united our community.

Hector dedicated his life to the arts and uplifting his hometown of El Paso. His commitment to preserving our cultural identity and showcasing the beauty of our beloved borderland makes him a cornerstone of the artistic and cultural fabric of El Paso.

I extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him. We honor his life and his immeasurable contribution to our cultural heritage.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN PILOT PETER L. FOSTER

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peter L. Foster, a proud American and distinguished commercial and test pilot, who shattered a set of world aviation records in 1988.

On August 31, 1988, while flying a Lake LA-250 Renegade aircraft with an internal combustion engine, Mr. FOSTER broke two world records by reaching an altitude of 7,468 meters during a horizontal flight and 7,498 meters of altitude overall.

For 36 years, those records have stood unbroken, and to this day have helped the United States maintain its place as a world leader in aviation.

For Mr. FOSTER's achievements for our country and contributions to American aviation and aerospace, I thank him.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, criminals are stealing SNAP benefits from hungry families, leaving them without enough money to buy food.

That is why I worked with Speaker Emerita PELOSI and leaders at the House Agriculture Committee to write a law reimbursing these families who were the victims of theft through no fault of their own.

Since the law was enacted in 2022, over 20,000 families in my home State of Massachusetts have gotten their benefits back. That is a huge success.

Sadly, the law expired at the end of last year. We won a hard-fought extension in the continuing resolution to ensure that no families fall through the cracks, but this is one of the provisions billionaire Elon Musk ordered the Republicans to take out of the bill, and families are now left on the hook.

The stories are heartbreaking, Mr. Speaker. One mother said: We aren't going to be able to survive like this.

Enough is enough. Let's extend the law and end hunger now.

CONGRATULATING SHERIFF ROSIE CORDERO-STUTZ AND CLERK JUAN BARQUIN

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

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, Miami-Dade has a new sheriff in town.

I rise today to congratulate my dear friend, Rosie Cordero-Stutz, on being sworn in as the first elected sheriff in Miami-Dade in over 60 years and the first woman and Hispanic to hold the position.

Sheriff Cordero-Stutz has been with Miami-Dade Police Department for nearly 30 years, rising from patrol officer to assistant director. She has what it takes to run the largest law enforcement agency in the southeastern United States.

I also congratulate Juan Barquin on being sworn in as the clerk of the court and comptroller for Miami-Dade County. Clerk Barquin began his career in the Public Defender's Office, and he will now oversee the fourth largest judicial circuit in the Nation. As the watchdog for public records and taxpayer money, I have all the confidence that he will continue to do an excellent job.

I congratulate Sheriff Cordero-Stutz and Clerk Barquin. Godspeed to them both. On behalf of all of the residents of Miami-Dade, I thank them for their service.

□ 0945

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 21

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Mr. Rogers of Kentucky, Mr. Aderholt, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Carter of Texas, Mr. Calvert, Mr. Diaz-Balart, Mr. Womack, Mr. Fleischmann, Mr. Joyce of Ohio, Mr. Harris of Maryland, Mr. Amodei of Nevada, Mr. Valadao, Mr. Newhouse, Mr. Moolenaar, Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Cline, Mr. Reschenthaler, Mrs. Hinson, Mr. Tony Gonzales of Texas, Ms. Letlow, Mr. Cloud, Mr. Guest, Mr. Zinke, Mr. Clyde, Mrs. Bice, Mr. Scott Franklin of Florida, Mr. Ellzey, Mr. Ciscomani, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Alford, Mr. LaLota, Ms. Maloy, Mr. Strong, Mr. Moore of West Virginia.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE: Mr. Latta, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Bilirakis, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Carter of Georgia, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Dunn of Florida, Mr. Crenshaw, Mr. Joyce of Pennsylvania, Mr. Weber of Texas, Mr. Allen, Mr. Balderson, Mr. Fulcher, Mr. Pfluger, Mrs. Harshbarger, Mrs. Miller-Meeks, Mrs. Cammack, Mr. Obernolte, Mr. James, Mr. Bentz, Mrs. Houchin, Mr. Fry, Ms. Lee of Florida, Mr. Langworthy, Mr. Kean, Mr. Rulli, Mr. Evans of Colorado, Mr. Goldman of Texas, Mrs. Fedorchak.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: Mr. Lucas, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Huizenga, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Barr, Mr. Williams of Texas, Mr. Emmer, Mr. Loudermilk, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Rose, Mr. Steil, Mr. Timmons, Mr. Stutzman, Mr. Norman, Mr. Meuser, Mrs. Kim, Mr. Donalds, Mr. Garbarino, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Flood, Mr. Lawler, Ms. De La Cruz, Mr. Ogles, Mr. Nunn of Iowa, Mrs. McClain, Ms. Salazar, Mr. Downing, Mr. Haridopolos, Mr. Moore of North Carolina.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS: Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Smith of Nebraska, Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania, Mr. Schweikert, Mr. LaHood, Mr. Arrington, Mr. Estes, Mr. Smucker, Mr. Hern of Oklahoma, Mrs. Miller of West Virginia, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Kustoff, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Steube, Ms. Tenney, Mrs. Fischbach, Mr. Moore of Utah, Ms. Van Dwyne, Mr. Feenstra, Ms. Malliotakis, Mr. Carey, Mr. Yakym, Mr. Miller of Ohio, Mr. Bean of Florida, Mr. Moran.

Mrs. HOUCHIN (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 2001, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) as members of the House Office Building Commission to serve with the Speaker.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 8, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on January 8, 2025, at 10:40 a.m., said to contain a message from the President regarding taking additional steps with respect to the situation in the Western Balkans.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk of the House.

TAKING ADDITIONAL STEPS WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-6)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message

from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order in order to take additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001 (Blocking Property of Persons Who Threaten International Stabilization Efforts in the Western Balkans), as amended by Executive Order 13304 of May 28, 2003 (Termination of Emergencies With Respect to Yugoslavia and Modification of Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001), and expanded in scope by Executive Order 14033 of June 8, 2021 (Blocking Property and Suspending Entry Into the United States of Certain Persons Contributing to the Destabilizing Situation in the Western Balkans).

The order is intended to provide additional prongs for targeting persons for designation under Executive Order 14033 and deter individuals from attempting to evade United States sanctions. This includes amendments to: add attempt as a basis for designation throughout the order; add a prong for leadership of membership in a sanctioned entity; add a prong for ownership or control of a sanctioned person; and add a prong for being a spouse or adult child of a sanctioned person.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 8, 2025.

ILLEGITIMATE COURT COUNTERACTION ACT

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 5, I call up the bill (H.R. 23) to impose sanctions with respect to the International Criminal Court engaged in any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person of the United States and its allies, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 5, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 23

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 "Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States and Israel are not parties to the Rome Statute or members of the International Criminal Court (ICC), and therefore the ICC has no legitimacy or jurisdiction over the United States or Israel.

(2) On May 20, 2024, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Karim Khan, announced arrest warrant applications for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant and should be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

(3) On November 21, 2024, the ICC's Pre-Trial Chamber issued warrants for the arrest of Netanyahu and Gallant, which should be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

(4) The bipartisan American Servicemembers' Protection Act was enacted in 2002 to protect United States military personnel, United States officials, and officials and military personnel of certain allied countries against criminal prosecution by an international criminal court to which the United States is not party, stating, "In addition to exposing members of the Armed Forces of the United States to the risk of international criminal prosecution, the Rome Statute creates a risk that the President and other senior elected and appointed officials of the United States Government may be prosecuted by the International Criminal Court."

(5) The ICC's actions against Israel, including the preliminary examination and investigation of Israel and issuance of arrest warrants against Israeli officials, are illegitimate and baseless and create a damaging precedent that threatens the United States, Israel, and all United States partners who have not consented to the ICC's jurisdiction.

(6) The United States must oppose any action by the ICC against the United States, Israel, or any other ally of the United States that has not consented to ICC jurisdiction or is not a state party to the Rome Statute of the ICC.

SEC. 3. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and on an ongoing basis thereafter, if the International Criminal Court is engaging in any attempt to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person, the President shall impose—

(1) the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any foreign person the President determines—

(A) has directly engaged in or otherwise aided any effort by the International Criminal Court to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute a protected person;

(B) has materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of any effort by the International Criminal Court to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute a protected person; or

(C) is owned or controlled by, or is currently acting or purports to have acted, directly or indirectly, for or on behalf of any person that directly engages in any effort by the International Criminal Court to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute a protected person; and

(2) the sanctions described in subsection (b)(2) with respect to the immediate family members of each foreign person who is subject to sanctions pursuant to paragraph (1).

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection with respect to a foreign person described in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) PROPERTY BLOCKING.—The President shall exercise all of the powers granted by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of any foreign person described in subsection (a)(1) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come

within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) ALIENS INADMISSIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—In the case of an alien described in subsection (a), the alien is—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

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

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

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry documentation of an alien described in subparagraph (A) shall be revoked, regardless of when such visa or other entry documentation was issued.

(ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under clause (i) shall—

(I) take effect immediately; and

(II) automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien's possession.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this section or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out this section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(d) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 10 days after any imposition of sanctions pursuant to subsection (a), the President shall brief and provide written notification to the appropriate congressional committees regarding the imposition of sanctions that shall include—

(1) a description of the foreign person or persons subject to the imposition of such sanctions, including the foreign person's role at or relation to the International Criminal Court;

(2) a description of any activity undertaken by such foreign person or persons in support of efforts to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person; and

(3) the specific sanctions imposed on such foreign person or persons.

(e) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may, on a case-by-case basis and for periods not to exceed 90 days each, waive the application of sanctions imposed or maintained with respect to a foreign person under this section if the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees before the waiver is to take effect a report that contains a determination of the President that the waiver is vital to the national security interests of the United States.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) with respect to a waiver of the application of sanctions imposed or maintained with respect to a foreign person under this section, or the renewal of such a waiver, shall include—

(A) a specific and detailed rationale for the determination that the waiver is vital to the national security interests of the United States;

(B) a description of the activity that resulted in the foreign person being subject to sanctions;

(C) a detailed description and list of actions the United States has taken to stop the

International Criminal Court from engaging in any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute all protected persons; and

(D) a detailed description and list of actions the International Criminal Court has taken to permanently close, withdraw, end, or otherwise terminate any preliminary examination, investigation, or any other effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute all protected persons.

(3) FORM.—Each report required by paragraph by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(f) SPECIAL RULE.—The President may terminate the sanctions with respect to the foreign persons described in subsection (a) if the President certifies in writing to the appropriate congressional committees that the International Criminal Court—

(1) has ceased engaging in any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute all protected persons; and

(2) has permanently closed, withdrawn, ended, and otherwise terminated any preliminary examination, investigation, or any other effort by the International Criminal Court to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute all protected persons.

SEC. 4. RESCISSION OF FUNDS FOR INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, any amounts appropriated for the International Criminal Court and available for obligation as of such date of enactment are hereby rescinded.

(b) PROHIBITION ON FUTURE APPROPRIATIONS.—On and after the date of the enactment of this Act, no appropriated funds may be used for the International Criminal Court.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMITTED ALIEN.—The terms "admitted" and "alien" have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) ALLY OF THE UNITED STATES.—The term "ally of the United States" means—

(A) a government of a member country of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; or

(B) a government of a major non-NATO ally, as that term is defined by section 2013(7) of the American Service-Members' Protection Act (22 U.S.C. 7432(7)).

(3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

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

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

(4) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term "foreign person" means a person that is not a United States person.

(5) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER.—The term "immediate family member", with respect to a foreign person, means the spouse, parent, sibling, or adult child of the person.

(6) INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT; ROME STATUTE.—The terms "International Criminal Court" and "Rome Statute" have the meaning given those terms in section 2013 of the American Service-Members' Protection Act (22 U.S.C. 7432).

(7) PROTECTED PERSON.—The term "protected person" means—

(A) any United States person, unless the United States provides formal consent to International Criminal Court jurisdiction and is a state party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, including—

(i) current or former members of the Armed Forces of the United States;

(ii) current or former elected or appointed officials of the United States Government; and

(iii) any other person currently or formerly employed by or working on behalf of the United States Government;

(B) any foreign person that is a citizen or lawful resident of an ally of the United States that has not consented to International Criminal Court jurisdiction or is not a state party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, including—

(i) current or former members of the Armed Forces of such ally of the United States;

(ii) current or former elected or appointed government officials of such ally of the United States; and

(iii) any other person currently or formerly employed by or working on behalf of such a government.

(8) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) an individual who is a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and the minority leader, or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act, a bill that I am proud to have worked on with my colleague and friend, CHIP ROY, a bill that sanctions International Criminal Court officials and their families and anybody who is assisting them.

Why? It is because they are targeting America's allies, who are right now the front line of fighting to bring American hostages home from Gaza.

America is passing this law because, on November 21, 2024, the International Criminal Court's Pre-Trial Chamber issued warrants for the arrest of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israel's former Defense Minister, Yoav Gallant.

Let me explain that in a more detailed way. America is passing this law because a kangaroo court is seeking to arrest the Prime Minister of our great ally, Israel, who is not only responding to an enemy which conducted a genocide, killing as many men, women, and children as possible, even beheading

some of them, on October 7, 2023, but an enemy who still holds 100 hostages, scores of bodies of those that they murdered, including 7 of my fellow Americans. Let me say that again. Israel is the tip of the spear in bringing the fight to an enemy who currently holds and has killed our fellow Americans.

Israel has conducted this war with as much restraint as war can allow. In the face of horror, they have shown humanity. We know that for Israel, any civilian dying is a tragedy, and we know that for Hamas and the Palestinians who support them, civilians dying is quite literally their strategy for victory.

Hamas' strategy uses hospitals and schools as bases for combat operations. It is not that some fighter accidentally walked into a hospital for 5 minutes carrying their machine gun. No, they build hospitals and schools into fortified launching points for attack. In clear violation of the laws of armed conflict, Hamas deliberately targets civilians.

What the ICC is doing with their arrest warrants is legitimizing the false accusations of Israeli war crimes in order to do something to stop the overwhelming success of Israeli military operations.

Mr. Speaker, I don't care if a person is a terrorist in a cave or if they are a lawyer in The Hague. If they are getting in the way of bringing home our Americans or bringing home our allies who are, as we speak in this very moment, bound, blindfolded, tortured, raped, enslaved, starved, facing execution, if you are getting in the way of bringing them home, then we will give you no quarter. We will certainly not allow you to be welcomed to American soil.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank the gentleman from Florida for his opening and congratulate him on his new chairmanship. I hope that there will be occasions where we can work together on issues that will advance the cause of human rights and promote stability in the world, but unfortunately, today is not one of those occasions.

Mr. Speaker, of all the ways that Republicans have shown this country how messed up and backward their priorities are, I have to say that this bill that we are debating today to sanction the International Criminal Court, the ICC, really takes the cake.

We have a natural disaster unfolding in California right this second as 100,000 people are fleeing a climate change-driven fire that is burning up entire neighborhoods. We have a gun violence epidemic, as we see massacres in our schools nearly every single day. Families are unable to make ends meet because they are being ripped off by billionaire corporations that don't care about anything but the bottom line.

There are over 40 million hungry people in this country who don't know where their next meal is going to come from. There are 40 million hungry people in the richest country on Earth.

All those challenges and this is what the out-of-touch, elitist, billionaire Republican Party wants to waste time on, sanctioning the ICC.

I actually listen to people in my district, Mr. Speaker, and I ask them what they want Congress to work on. Not once, never ever, have I heard them talk about sanctioning the ICC as one of their priorities. They talk about their bills. They talk about healthcare costs. The farmers in my district talk to me about climate change. They talk about global problems, but they don't talk about sanctioning the ICC.

Republicans think this is so very important, such an emergency, that we have to debate it during the first week of Congress—during Jimmy Carter's funeral, by the way, which is offensive considering his record on actually standing up for human rights, which is the opposite of what this bill does.

I would say to America, no, don't worry about climate change because Republicans are going to sanction the janitors at the ICC. While they are at it, they are going to rename the Gulf of Mexico. That is really going to help people pay bills and keep the lights on.

All I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that this is not what America voted for. This Republican majority is not what people asked for in the last election. Maybe that is why Republicans lost multiple seats, because they keep bringing up lousy bills like this one.

Nonetheless, let's talk about the matter at hand.

Mr. Speaker, the terror attacks on October 7 were unconscionable and unacceptable. The victims on that dark day were overwhelmingly civilians, 62 of whom are still being held illegally as hostages in unknown circumstances. I would hope that every single Member of this Chamber would demand their immediate and unconditional release.

It was an attack, I think, that rises to the level of war crimes and crimes against humanity. That is the reason that the International Criminal Court applied for arrest warrants against three Hamas leaders in May 2024. No one seemed to criticize the ICC for that decision.

Now, Republicans want to sanction the ICC simply because they don't want the rules to apply to everyone.

I want to be very clear here, Mr. Speaker. Prime Minister Netanyahu has an absolute right to defend his people, but there is no international right to vengeance, and what we are seeing in Gaza is vengeance.

I mean, where is our humanity? Have we just given up on the idea of human rights?

At least 45,000 people have been killed in the war in Gaza, and I fear that number is much higher. Mr. Speaker, 85 percent of the people there have been forcibly displaced, often repeatedly. Last September, a group of

physicians estimated 62,000 had died of starvation. Hospitals, schools, mosques, churches, and libraries have all been destroyed.

Food is not getting in. Water is not getting in. Medicine is not getting in. People are dying. Children are dying. Babies are dying, some of them from the bombs, some from starvation, some from the cold.

The war has not shrunk. It expanded to Lebanon, where I hope the recent truce continues to hold.

Mr. Speaker, I have sharply critiqued my own government for our conduct when we have been at war because right is right and wrong is wrong, no matter what side you are on.

What is going on in Gaza right now is wrong, and I especially call it out because if we stand for freedom and human rights, then we need to stand for freedom and human rights all the time, not just when it is convenient.

That is why the nations of the world set up the International Criminal Court in the first place. This is an institution designed to make sure the horrors that we saw all too often in the 20th century do not repeat themselves in the 21st century.

□ 1000

We have international humanitarian law to prevent this kind and this scale of destruction. Just because someone doesn't like the law doesn't mean they get to break the law.

As a court of last resort, the ICC can only become involved when and where a country has demonstrated unwillingness or inability to hold its people to account for crimes within the ICC's jurisdiction. When the warrants were issued, the ICC appealed to the Israeli courts to take up and investigate these charges under their own jurisdiction. There is still time for the Israeli courts to do that.

In fact, my understanding is that the Israeli Government is appealing these arrest warrants at the ICC. Ironically, these sanctions could actually undermine those efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I want the United States and Israel to have an amazing relationship and friendship, but friendship means we tell the truth. It means we hold ourselves and our allies to the same high standards.

I understand why people want vengeance. I have been to the region that Hamas attacked. I have met with the families of hostages and the victims of October 7 whose lives have been destroyed by what happened; many, by the way, who are furious at Prime Minister Netanyahu for the way he has conducted this war and for his failure to bring home their loved ones.

I have met with people in my district who have been deeply impacted by this horrific tragedy, including too many who are justifiably afraid about the rise of anti-Semitism in this country and around the world.

The overwhelming majority of this Congress, Mr. Speaker, has voted to

support basically unlimited military assistance and offensive weapons to Mr. Netanyahu, but even if someone approves of that military assistance, they should vote against this bill.

I have long considered myself a friend of Israel. I have traveled there. I believe Israelis deserve security. They deserve peace. They deserve safety.

However, turning a blind eye to what is happening in Gaza and saying that all these civilian casualties are somehow okay, in my opinion, does not make Israel more safe. It makes Israel less safe, less secure.

Sanctioning and attacking the ICC is not only bad for Israel, but it is bad for the United States. It is bad for the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

We are the people's House. Let me translate what was just said: It is not a priority for the people's House to do everything possible to get our people home, to include getting in the way of those who are getting in our way.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), the genesis of and the lead sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Florida, the chairman, for his support on this legislation. I thank him for his statesmanship on this particular issue, which is critically important for not just our friendship with our ally, Israel, but also our own national security, the protection of our own men and women in uniform.

Let's be clear about what is happening at the so-called International Criminal Court right now. It has taken unprecedented action of issuing arrest warrants for the sitting Prime Minister and former Minister of Defense of our friend and ally, Israel. Let that sink in for a minute.

The International Criminal Court is an entity that has no jurisdiction over the people of the United States and should have no authority over our people, no authority over the Prime Minister of Israel, yet it is extending into the people of Israel's business in defending their interests against a violent attack by Hamas, which we define as a terrorist entity. As the chairman just pointed out, Hamas has killed American citizens and holds American citizens hostage as we sit here today.

Somehow, it is not a priority for the people of our country that we represent for us to be here on the floor of the House defending our men and women in uniform, defending our citizens, defending our ally, Israel, and the Prime Minister of Israel from a politicized witch hunt by the International Criminal Court which, again, should have and doesn't have any jurisdiction over our people or the people of Israel.

I would remind the gentleman from Massachusetts that 42 Democrats voted for this legislation last year. If this is

such a crazy piece of legislation, perhaps the gentleman would like to have an inward-facing conference on his side of the aisle. It is very clearly a bipartisan interest to protect our people and the people of our friends in Israel.

I would note that our problems aren't just the dangerous terrorist organizations like Hamas, but these international organizations given power over our citizens and our way of life; not just the International Criminal Court, but, for example, UNRWA and other international organizations without which Hamas wouldn't have many of the resources it needs to conduct these violent attacks on Israel and our own people.

When the gentleman from Massachusetts talks about the plight of the people in Gaza, we should be reminded of the massive piles of food and relief that are stacked up because the United Nations is too incompetent to move those pallets and remind our friends of the extent to which Hamas has been taking those resources and not distributing them to the people in Gaza.

The fact of the matter here is, this legislation is inherently America first. We have had situations where we have had American soldiers and our people targeted by the ICC. It will happen again if the House of Representatives and the Senate and the President don't take action to sanction the ICC to prevent this from happening again in the future.

I appreciate the support of the chairman. I appreciate the support of virtually every Member on the Republican side of the aisle. I appreciate the support of the 42 Democrats last summer. I look forward to a larger amount of support from Democrats when we vote on this today.

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

First of all, to the gentleman from Texas, yeah, I don't know how the vote on this will come out. I am sure some Democrats may vote for it. Actually, on our side, we welcome debate, and we welcome ways to improve the legislation. I am told that there were negotiations going on to try to actually improve this legislation, and then the Speaker made a unilateral decision to go with the most extreme version.

This was not marked up in committee, and there were no amendments to this. It didn't come to the Rules Committee, so nobody can offer an amendment, nobody can make a suggestion. It is take it or leave it. I mean, I guess that is the way the Republicans are going to want to run the House.

To the distinguished chairman of the committee, I think he must have misinterpreted me. He said something like: This is the people's House, so let me translate what the gentleman, meaning me, just said in my opening remarks. He said bringing the hostages home should not be a priority.

Now, I know I am from Massachusetts and you may have a tough time

understanding my accent, but the bottom line is, that is not what I said. In fact, I said very clearly that the taking of hostages is a war crime. What I said very clearly is that the hostages should be released immediately and unconditionally. I have said that over and over and over again.

I don't think, like many of the families of the hostages have expressed to me, that increased bombing is going to result in getting their loved ones home. That is the message that many of them have delivered to me personally when they have visited here in Washington.

Again, please don't kind of manipulate what I have said here today. The taking of these hostages is horrific, and they must be released immediately and unconditionally. I hope that nobody disagrees with that.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, what the gentleman did say very clearly was that this legislation is not a priority, and this legislation is meant to get in the way of those who are getting in our way from getting our Americans home.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and Mr. ROY for bringing this important piece of legislation to us.

Let's be clear. H.R. 23 is very clear: The International Criminal Court, the ICC, don't believe Israel has the right to defend itself from terrorists or those that threaten to destroy Israel's way of life.

The United States and Israel are not members of the ICC for good reason and without accident. Mr. Speaker, it is a dadgum sham court is what it is. These decisions by the ICC are reckless, and they not only put Israel at risk, they put Americans at risk as well.

The United States, with our new Congress and new administration, is not going to put up with these international organizations putting us and our allies in harm's way. Hamas chose war, and dadgummit, Hamas got war.

The ICC prosecutor, Karim Khan, has made a parody of justice, and he needs to find his place or we will help him find it. I know when I get back to the office, I am going to get texts or contacts from people saying that my AIPAC handler told me to do this, and I will probably get my AIPAC handler in trouble, but I don't even know who the heck he or she is.

The truth is, this is right. America should be on the side of the right. Anyone standing in the way of this important piece of legislation, I think, owes the American public an explanation and owes especially your Jewish constituency an explanation.

I fully support H.R. 23, and I look forward to passing it here shortly.

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

Mr. Speaker, again, I am going to respond to the chairman of the com-

mittee. Yeah, we do disagree on the impact of this bill. I disagree that this bill is going to do anything to get the hostages released. Every time we have seen hostages released, it has been during a cease-fire and not in the middle of intense bombing.

Again, as many families of the hostages have expressed to me directly, they worry very much about the Prime Minister's continued policy of all-in in terms of military attacks in Gaza because they worry very much that it decreases the likelihood that their loved ones will be freed. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER), a patriot.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I would note that the gentleman from Massachusetts is talking about the Prime Minister.

What about the President of the United States?

We have seven Americans still being held hostage; four deceased, three presumed living.

Where is Joe Biden? Where is the President of the United States to make sure that American hostages are being brought home?

It is shameful the way this administration has allowed these hostages to languish. They have not put adequate pressure on our allies. They have failed miserably in their responsibility to get Americans home. When, in fact, there have been cease-fires and when, in fact, hostages have been released, Americans have not been released. It is shameful.

I rise in support of the Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act to reimpose sanctions on officials working for the International Criminal Court. This institution has continually abused its authority and demonstrated blatant hostility toward our allies and American values, as Israel has continued to defend itself against terrorists in the Middle East, over the objections of this administration, by the way.

Let's be clear, Sinwar and Nasrallah would still be alive if Netanyahu listened to this administration.

The ICC has joined the U.N. in showing a clear bias against Israel. This culminated in the ICC seeking arrest warrants of the Prime Minister and other members of his cabinet.

The Israelis have been working tirelessly for over a year to rescue hundreds of hostages still held by Hamas and to defend their own people from further attacks.

□ 1015

The ICC's actions amount to a little more than a political smear campaign cloaked in a veneer of international law. This pattern of behavior from the ICC is not new. This is the same body that has repeatedly targeted the United States and our servicemembers, attempting to investigate and prosecute Americans who have risked their

lives to defend our freedom around the world.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this critical measure and ensure that the U.S. remains steadfast in defending our allies, protecting our existence, and upholding the tenets that have long defined our leadership on the world stage.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I say to the gentleman, that was a great speech for social media, but it will do nothing to get the hostages released, just like this bill.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 18 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 19 minutes remaining.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I would remind everybody that every time my colleagues across the way rise, they rise to oppose legislation that would get in the way of those getting in our way of bringing Americans home. That is what they are standing against. That is what they are rising against.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the unprovoked and barbaric attack on Israeli civilians on October 7 presented Israel with a fundamental moral obligation to annihilate the forces that had unleashed such depravity.

Ironically, the United Nations was conceived in the aftermath of the Holocaust, precisely to stand behind the civilized nations of the world when the forces of evil threatened.

Tragically, it has become grotesquely perverted. UNRWA's staff actively participated in the attack of October 7, and its ICC has now become a kangaroo court, waging lawfare against Israel's wartime leaders.

The ICC has thus made a mockery of every hope and dream that gave birth to the United Nations and has declared by its own obscene acts to be, itself, a threat to world peace, international order, and the rule of law.

I wholeheartedly support this bill, sanctioning anyone who gives it aid and comfort in pursuing its twisted agenda.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my fellow Texan calling for sanctions on the International Criminal Court officials who dare to target U.S. citizens or our allies, especially our ally, Israel.

Mr. Speaker, the ICC is nothing more than a kangaroo court. Their absolute

blind obsession in pursuing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu notwithstanding Hamas' unspeakable atrocities reveals the ICC's true loyalties. Their actions signal a dangerous complicity with terrorist groups, like Hamas, as well as others I might add.

The ICC's ignorance of reality disqualifies them from passing judgment on those defending themselves against pure evil. I can't say that strongly enough: against pure evil. It is that pure and simple. The ICC doesn't get it.

I have been to Israel since the horrific October 7 attacks, Mr. Speaker. On the other hand, the ICC has not only not witnessed firsthand, as I have, the devastation and terror inflicted on innocent lives, they have not been there.

Our message is clear: The ICC is a disgrace. It is a sham, and its officials need to find real jobs. They have no authority to target Americans or our allies, especially Israel, and we won't stand for it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to passing this bill and encouraging the Senate to pass it in time for President Trump to sign it on day one.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, neither the United States nor Israel recognize the legitimacy of the ICC. We are not members. The ICC has no authority to violate the sovereignty of either of those nations.

This bill is essential for protecting American citizens, servicemembers, our allies, especially Israel, from these politically motivated, punitive prosecutions by the ICC.

Israel and its leaders have an inherent right to defend themselves against these terrorist attacks that occurred from Hamas, and they get to also attempt to rescue these hostages, but the ICC's attempts to interfere with Israel's self-defense and issue arrest warrants for the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, and their minister of defense, undermines justice.

As the only Member of Congress who actually attended the Rome Conference that formulated the ICC document in the summer of 1998, I can attest that the ICC is hopelessly biased and is illegitimate. It claims authority it does not have. It attempts to claim jurisdiction and issue sanctions against Israel as we could have predicted, and many of us did who were at that conference watching this ICC form.

The ICC is an institution without a mandate from the international community, and the ICC must understand that the United States will not allow its overreach to harm U.S. citizens or our allies.

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

Mr. Speaker, just for the record, I just want the record to reflect that I

remember hearing widespread support from many of my Republican colleagues when the ICC issued a warrant against Vladimir Putin for the kidnapping of Ukrainian children, as well as when they issued a warrant against Bashir for genocide in Sudan.

I guess what we are hearing here is that we want to pick and choose on their side how we are going to react to the ICC based on what they do. I mean, the bottom line is this is the beginning of a process. It is not the end of a process.

This bill will do nothing to help get the release of our hostages, including those Americans who are held hostage, and it will isolate us within the world community, especially with many of our allies.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I remind my friends across the aisle that Americans are being held and tortured. Get with the American team, and get in the way of those that are getting in our way.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is very clear that the gentleman from Massachusetts is well out of his depth when it comes to military warfare and how to conduct an operation. I will let that speak for itself.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation. In November of 2024, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant on baseless and reprehensible charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

These charges are not only morally indefensible, but a blatant bias of justice. Israel does not deliberately target civilians as terrorists harbor them in mosques, churches, in schools, hospitals, and so many more. The Israeli Government has taken unprecedented steps to minimize civilian harm during conflicts, a commitment that is unparalleled by any other nation facing terrorists.

The acquisition that Israel uses starvation as a weapon of war is a blatant lie, ignoring the immense humanitarian aid Israel has provided to Gaza despite ongoing attacks.

This illegitimate attack on Israel emboldens terrorist organizations like Hamas. Both President Biden and President Trump have rightly condemned these charges, recognizing their destructive implications. This critical legislation, which has previously passed this body with strong bipartisan support sends a clear and unequivocal message: The United States will not tolerate the ICC's abuse of power against our allies or our citizens.

Once again, the ICC has no jurisdiction over the United States of America or the people of Israel. They need to call this what it is: anti-Semitism. That is what this is. That is what the

ICC is going after, and that is what you are condoning, from the gentleman from Massachusetts, and I see the support on the other side of the aisle with all your colleagues sitting next to you fighting right alongside.

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

Mr. Speaker, two things to the gentleman who just spoke: The reason why my colleagues are not here is because the Republicans scheduled this debate during President Carter's funeral, which I find to be incredibly disappointing given President Carter's stature in this country and his commitment to human rights.

To the chairman of the committee, I was a little bit startled when he said get with the American team; because we have a disagreement, that somehow I am not with the American team. Last time I checked, we are still a democracy, at least for the time being. You can have disagreements on this issue, and we can still respect each other's point of view.

If I thought for one second that this bill that we are debating today would help get the release of the hostages and the American hostages, I would be with you, but it won't. It complicates things even further, and it isolates us in the world community at a time, quite frankly, when we need allies, and we need everybody working to try to resolve the conflict in the Middle East, to get all the hostages released, to ensure that Israel has its security, and to ensure that the Palestinians have a future, as well.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman across the aisle is right. We need everybody working to get hostages home to get this resolved. That means not giving an iota of recognition to kangaroo courts, like the ICC, who are trying to prevent Israeli military success, who are conducting their brand of anti-Semitism against Israeli leaders, preventing Americans and our allies from being returned home.

Again, Israel is the tip of the spear in bringing American hostages home, and anybody who gets in their way is getting in our way.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). The gentleman from Florida has 10 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 16½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, since I have 10 minutes remaining, I am going to sit here in silence for 2 minutes and see if my colleague from Texas shows up.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman must remain behind the mike.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, that is a good lesson. Thanks. I will remain standing here.

Mr. Speaker, it appears we will have no more speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, as I close debate, I want to reiterate my opposition to this misguided legislation. The International Criminal Court exists to hold the world accountable to prevent atrocities and to serve as a reminder that no one is above the law.

Abandoning the ICC, as H.R. 23 proposes, undermines our values, undermines our alliances, and undermines our credibility on the world stage.

This is a moment to reaffirm our commitment to human rights, to international law, and to the partnerships that have defined American leadership, and this bill fails that test.

By sanctioning officials of the ICC and anyone who has done business with them, this bill would have a chilling effect on America's work to support human rights and rule of law around the world.

It would hamper the ICC's efforts to prosecute serious atrocities that have wrecked lives and destabilized countries in many places around the world, from Ukraine to Uganda to Darfur.

NGOs would be chilled from sharing evidence of the grave crimes committed in these places. Many of us celebrated in March of 2023 when the ICC judges issued arrest warrants for Vladimir Putin and another senior Russian official for abducting thousands of Ukrainian children.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, Congress even passed legislation to enable the United States to provide financial support to and share information with the ICC to investigate and prosecute Putin and his regime for his heinous crimes in Ukraine. The bill we are considering today would undermine that work and rob it of its legitimacy.

If passed, this misguided legislation would bluntly curtail our ability to engage the ICC, to advance our interests in supporting justice and accountability, and, crucially, to share relevant information with our partners and allies.

Speaking of our allies, this bill is so absurdly broad that it would sanction our own allies. Read the bill. Our allies would be sanctioned for supporting the ICC if this were to pass.

The largest funders of the ICC are America's closest allies: the U.K., France, Germany, Italy, Japan. As drafted, the leaders of these countries would be sanctioned for providing material assistance to the ICC. That is truly nuts. It doesn't make any sense to me.

The legislative bodies of these countries could also be sanctioned for appropriating funds for the ICC. By some interpretations, interparliamentary travel to Europe could become a sanctionable activity.

Did anybody think this through? Is sanctioning the leaders of our closest friends and allies really the best we can do here?

Not only that, this sanctions over 900 members from approximately 100 countries at the court, from judges and prosecutors to administrative staff, including nationals of close U.S. allies and partners who collectively work to prosecute war criminals all around the globe.

The language in this bill is so broad that even cafeteria workers and janitors and their families could be construed as having supported or "materially assisted" in these prosecutions by providing services to the ICC. This is nuts.

Mr. Speaker, what would happen next? I can tell you. American companies would be banned from doing business with the ICC if its top officials are sanctioned, and their Chinese competitors would rush in to fill the gap. Not only does this undermine America's interests, but it bolsters Russia and helps China.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bad bill. Not only is it a bad bill, but nobody had any opportunity at all to amend it. This has been brought to the floor under a completely closed process. We can't address all the faults that I have just outlined. We can't address them because of the way this majority is bringing this bill to the floor. Zero amendments are allowed because Republicans brought it up under a closed rule—again, another wasted opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, we can do better. In my opinion, behind-the-scenes diplomacy with the International Criminal Court, alongside our partners, is far more likely to yield a result than the approach put forward by this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, the statement of the gentleman from the other side is as untrue now as it was when he gave the same speech a few months ago on this very floor.

I would say the message is clear to everybody: Don't get in America's way as we are trying to work with our allies to get our Americans home and our allies home.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. JACKSON).

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, on October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists brutally murdered and kidnapped hundreds of innocent Israelis. Over a year later, Hamas still holds hostages—some dead but many alive.

In response to these truly horrific attacks, Israel has defended itself from Hamas and other Iranian terrorist proxies.

I would have expected the international community to unequivocally condemn these barbaric terrorist attacks by Hamas and support Israel's fight for survival. However, corrupt international organizations like the

International Criminal Court have issued arrest warrants against Israeli officials for simply trying to defend themselves and defend their country.

The ICC's anti-Semitism speaks volumes. This is an unacceptable attack against our greatest ally, and the United States must make it clear that those who participate in these illegitimate prosecutions from the ICC are subject to the strongest possible sanctions.

America needs leadership, and this is where we need it. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand with Israel and to vote for H.R. 23.

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

Mr. Speaker, if the United States of America stands for anything, we need to stand out loud and foursquare for human rights. That means we have to hold ourselves accountable, our allies accountable, and our adversaries accountable when they don't live up to those standards.

The International Criminal Court is there to hold countries accountable and to hold entities accountable when they commit human rights crimes. They are there to investigate, and they are there to prosecute.

For us in Congress to get involved in sanctioning the ICC because we don't like the fact that they are pointing out some of the serious issues in Gaza committed by one of our closest allies, for us to sanction them because of that, undermines the court, undermines our credibility in the world, and undermines our credibility on human rights. Why would we do that?

This bill does nothing to help get the hostages released. It does nothing at all. Again, let me be clear: All of us should be saying as loudly as we possibly can that all the hostages should be released immediately and unconditionally. They have arrest warrants out for the leadership of Hamas precisely because of what happened on October 7. The ICC wants to hold them accountable.

What we are doing here doesn't make any sense to me. It doesn't make any sense to me. Again, the bill as it is written is so flawed. If it went through regular order, if you brought it to the Rules Committee and we made a few amendments in order, we might be able to fix some of the flaws I pointed out.

Instead, keeping to the tradition of this Republican leadership, which oversaw the closest Congress in the history of the United States in the last session, I guess we are going to expect more of the same—take it or leave it, my way or the highway.

This is about a sound bite, I guess, more than it is about trying to achieve peace in the Middle East, trying to get the release of our hostages, or trying to uphold a high standard of human rights. I find this really disappointing. I really do.

Again, I said at the opening of my statement to the new chairman that I

hope we can find areas where we can work together to help improve the quality of life for people all around the world. This bill is not going to do that.

I think we can do so much better here. This is not about whether you support Israel or not. This is a whole different discussion that we are having here today. This is about whether you want to delegitimize the International Criminal Court, a court, by the way, which many Republicans supported when it went after al-Bashir in Darfur and Putin for kidnapping children.

Again, we are entering a very dangerous time when we are bringing legislation to the floor to demagogue issues rather than to be constructive. We have to take a deep breath around here because some of the stuff that has come to this floor is really beneath this institution.

Again, I regret that we are doing this here today. I urge everybody, and I hope some of my Republican colleagues will join with us, to oppose this legislation. We can do better. We need to do better.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill sends an incredibly important message across the globe when we make this law: Do not get in the way of America or our allies trying to bring our people home. Do not get in our way. You will be given no quarter. Again, you will certainly not be welcomed to American soil.

This bill is even more urgent today than when it was first passed back in June of last year. In June, the ICC's prosecutor had only just requested warrants. The warrants had not yet been issued or approved. There was still time for the ICC to abandon this shameful effort. Instead, the ICC's attempt to obstruct Israel's right to defend itself has only prolonged the war and prevented the release of American hostages by boosting the morale of Hamas. If you are boosting the morale of Hamas, you are on the other team.

In November, the ICC's Pre-Trial Chamber approved the arrest warrants. We have to pass this bill today to prevent this travesty from moving any further and to deter any more illegitimate actions by this kangaroo court to halt or stall the military success of our allies trying to bring hostages home, American, Israeli, and others.

Mr. Speaker, for that reason, I call on every single one of my colleagues to put America first by voting for this legislation today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. I rise today as a proud American and a staunch believer in the noble ideals this country was founded upon. This country, which was built on the idea of equality and justice, today is a leader on the world stage that can boast of its commitment and success in spreading these values. We have established a world order based on the rule of law, a commitment to advancing human rights, and deference to international institutions.

Yet, flagrantly contravening all of these principles, the House of Representatives has before it a bill that would punish the International Criminal Court (ICC) as it seeks justice for the Palestinian people. This legislation explicitly imposes sanctions on the ICC for "any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person of the United States and its allies".

I love my country, and I truly believe that at our core, Americans do want global peace. For this reason, I staunchly oppose these efforts to undermine the international order merely because the agents of that order are taking legal action against one of our allies. Many of our closest allies are intimately involved with the funding and proceedings of the ICC, meaning they would be exposed to the sanctions created by this bill. This includes many of the United States' closest allies, such as Germany, France, Japan, and the United Kingdom, where the current Chief Prosecutor of the ICC is from.

This partisan bill is evidently not concerned about protecting all American allies, who would face severe sanctions should this legislation pass into law, but rather one American ally in particular. While Palestinians in Gaza continue to endure the most dire of circumstances and as their death toll for children only continues to tick upward, this Congress is instead intent on protecting Israeli politicians from scrutiny at the expense of maintaining the international order at large that we helped establish. I continue to ask for mercy for the Palestinian people and hope that all people of the region, both Israeli and Palestinian, receive the justice that they deserve.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I wish to underscore my strong support of H.R. 23, the Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act, and highlight the immediate need to sanction the International Criminal Court (ICC) for its dangerous abuse of power and for the United States to repudiate these actions.

The ICC's outrageous issuance of arrest warrants for Prime Minister Netanyahu and Minister Gallant is a grotesquely bad decision by a court that is corrupted by blatant antisemitism.

Israel's right to defend itself from this brutal invasion is absolute. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said in the past that he would never allow a second holocaust—nor should we.

Antisemitism is at the root of Hamas violence against Israel and every Jewish man, woman, and child, and is explicitly expressed in Hamas' 1988 Charter which demands the absolute destruction of the state of Israel and proclaims: "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it."

In its 2017 charter, Hamas reiterates its goal of wiping Israel off the face of the earth: "There is no alternative to a fully sovereign Palestinian State on the entire national Palestinian soil, with Jerusalem as its capital."

Mr. Speaker, the ICC's actions support Hamas' explicitly antisemitic and genocidal campaign of terror against Israel, and Congress must respond in the most forceful way possible.

The ICC is a rogue actor on the world stage, and the United States must have a more effective long-term approach for how to respond to it.

Their latest action is a further manifestation of the same antisemitism that is rampant at

the United Nations and related international organizations. Last Congress alone, I chaired four congressional hearings on how they are absolutely infiltrated by antisemitic personnel who on a daily basis go after Israel with such cruelty.

Israel needs the ability to defend itself—and they need friends and partners who will stand beside them.

It is long-past time the United States held international organizations accountable for their antisemitism and their corruption. Furthermore, it is incumbent upon the United States to use its full voice to support Israel and ensure international organizations and venues are not used to promote antisemitism and the persecution of the Jewish people, and encourage our allies to do the same.

I thank Congressman ROY for introducing this legislation, underscoring this House's resolve to stand by an ally.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 23.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 5, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

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

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

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

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 42 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1145

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST) at 11 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 22

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Mr. Hoyer, Ms. Kaptur, Mr. Clyburn, Mr. Bishop of Georgia, Ms. McCollum, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Mr. Cuellar, Ms. Pingree, Mr. Quigley, Ms. Meng, Mr. Pocan, Mr. Aguilar, Ms. Lois Frankel of Florida, Mrs. Watson Coleman, Mrs. Torres of California, Mr. Case, Mr. Espallat, Mr. Harder of California, Ms. Underwood, Ms. Lee of Nevada, Mr. Morelle, Mr. Levin, Ms. Dean of Pennsylvania, Ms. Escobar, Mr. Mrvan, Ms. Perez, Mr. Ivey.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE: Ms. DeGette, Ms. Schakowsky, Ms. Matsui, Ms. Castor of Florida, Mr. Tonko, Ms. Clarke of New York, Mr. Ruiz, Mr. Peters, Mrs. Dingell, Mr. Veasey, Ms. Kelly of Illinois, Ms. Barragán, Mr. Soto, Ms. Schrier, Mrs. Trahan, Mrs. Fletcher, Ms. Ocasio-Cortez, Mr. Auchincloss, Mr. Carter of Louisiana, Mr. Mullin, Mr. Landsman, Ms. McClellan.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: Ms. Velázquez, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Meeks, Mr. David Scott of Georgia, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Green of Texas, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. Himes, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Beatty, Mr. Vargas, Mr. Gottheimer, Mr. Vicente Gonzalez of Texas, Mr. Casten, Ms. Pressley, Ms. Tlaib, Mr. Torres of New York, Ms. Garcia of Texas, Ms. Williams of Georgia, Ms. Pettersen, Mr. Fields, Ms. Bynum, Mr. Liccardo.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS: Mr. Doggett, Mr. Thompson of California, Mr. Larson of Connecticut, Mr. Davis of Illinois, Ms. Sánchez, Ms. Sewell, Ms. DelBene, Ms. Chu, Ms. Moore of Wisconsin, Mr. Boyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Beyer, Mr. Evans of Pennsylvania, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Panetta, Mr. Gomez, Mr. Horsford, Ms. Plaskett, Mr. Suozzi.

Mr. NEGUSE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ILLEGITIMATE COURT COUNTERACTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 23) to impose sanctions with respect to the International Criminal Court engaged in any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person of the United States and its allies, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 243, nays 140, answered “present” 1, not voting 50, as follows:

[Roll No. 7]

YEAS—243

Aderholt	Barr	Biggs (SC)
Alford	Barrett	Bilirakis
Allen	Baumgartner	Boebert
Amodei (NV)	Bean (FL)	Bost
Ansari	Begich	Bresnahan
Arrington	Bell	Burchett
Babin	Bentz	Burlison
Bacon	Bergman	Calvert
Baird	Bice	Cammack
Balderson	Biggs (AZ)	Carey

Carter (GA)	Horsford	Onder	Lee (PA)	Neal	Simon
Carter (TX)	Houchin	Owens	Leger Fernandez	Neguse	Sorensen
Cerfilus-	Hudson	Pallone	Liccardo	Ocasio-Cortez	Stansbury
McCormick	Huizenga	Palmer	Lynch	Olsewski	Strickland
Ciscomani	Hunt	Panetta	Magaziner	Omar	Takano
Cisneros	Hurd (CO)	Pappas	Mannion	Pelosi	Thompson (CA)
Cline	Issa	Perez	Matsui	Pettersen	Thompson (MS)
Clyde	Jack	Perry	McBride	Pocan	Titus
Cole	Jackson (TX)	Peters	McClellan	Pou	Tlaib
Collins	James	Pfluger	McCollum	Pressley	Tokuda
Comer	Johnson (LA)	Reschenthaler	McDonald Rivet	Quigley	Tonko
Craig	Johnson (SD)	Riley (NY)	McGarvey	Ramirez	Trahan
Crane	Jordan	Rogers (AL)	McGovern	Randall	Tran
Crank	Joyce (OH)	Rogers (KY)	McIver	Raskin	Turner (TX)
Crawford	Joyce (PA)	Rose	Meeks	Ross	Underwood
Crenshaw	Kean	Rouzer	Mfume	Salinas	Vasquez
Cuellar	Kelly (MS)	Roy	Min	Sánchez	Velázquez
Davidson	Kelly (PA)	Rulli	Moore (WI)	Scanlon	Vindman
Davis (NC)	Kennedy (UT)	Rutherford	Morelle	Schakowsky	Waters
Diaz-Balart	Kiggans (VA)	Ryan	Morrison	Scholten	Watson Coleman
Donalds	Kiley (CA)	Salazar	Mrvan	Scott (VA)	Williams (GA)
Downing	Kim	Scalise	Mullin	Sewell	
Dunn (FL)	Knott	Schmidt			
Edwards	LaHood	Schneider			
Ellzey	LaLota	Schrier			
Emmer	LaMalfa	Schweikert			
Estes	Landsman	Scott, Austin			
Evans (CO)	Langworthy	Self			
Ezell	Latimer	Sessions			
Fallon	Latta	Shreve			
Fedorchak	Lawler	Simpson			
Feenstra	Lee (FL)	Smith (MO)			
Figures	Lee (NV)	Smith (NE)			
Finstad	Levin	Smith (NJ)			
Fischbach	Loudermilk	Smucker			
Fitzgerald	Lucas	Soto			
Fitzpatrick	Luna	Spartz			
Fleischmann	Luttrell	Staubert			
Flood	Mace	Stefanik			
Fong	Mackenzie	Steil			
Fox	Malliotakis	Stevens			
Frankel, Lois	Maloy	Strong			
Franklin, Scott	Mann	Stutzman			
Fry	Mast	Subramanyam			
Fulcher	McBath	Suozzi			
Garbarino	McCaul	Sykes			
Gill (TX)	McClain	Taylor			
Gillen	McClain Delaney	Tenney			
Gimenez	McClintock	Thanedar			
Golden (ME)	McCormick	Thompson (PA)			
Goldman (NY)	McDowell	Timmons			
Goldman (TX)	McGuire	Torres (NY)			
Gonzales, Tony	Menendez	Turner (OH)			
Gonzalez, V.	Meng	Valadao			
Gooden	Messmer	Van Dwyne			
Gottheimer	Meuser	Van Orden			
Graves	Miller (OH)	Vargas			
Gray	Miller (WV)	Veasey			
Green (TN)	Miller-Meeks	Walberg			
Griffith	Mills	Wasserman			
Grothman	Moolenaar	Schultz			
Guest	Moore (AL)	Weber (TX)			
Guthrie	Moore (NC)	Webster (FL)			
Hageman	Moore (UT)	Westerman			
Hamadeh (AZ)	Moore (WV)	Wied			
Haridopolos	Moran	Williams (TX)			
Harrigan	Moskowitz	Wilson (SC)			
Harris (NC)	Nehls	Wittman			
Harshbarger	Newhouse	Womack			
Higgins (LA)	Norcross	Yakym			
Hill (AR)	Nunn (IA)	Zinke			
Hinson	Ogles				

NAYS—140

Adams	Correa	Gomez
Amo	Courtney	Goodlander
Auchincloss	Crockett	Green, Al (TX)
Balint	Crow	Harder (CA)
Barragán	Davids (KS)	Hayes
Beatty	Davis (IL)	Himes
Bera	Dean (PA)	Houlihan
Beyer	DeGette	Hoyer
Bonamici	DeLauro	Hoyle (OR)
Brown	DelBene	Huffman
Budzinski	Deluzio	Ivey
Bynum	DeSaunier	Jackson (IL)
Carbajal	Dexter	Jacobs
Carson	Doggett	Jayapal
Carter (LA)	Elfreth	Jeffries
Casar	Escobar	Johnson (GA)
Casten	Espallat	Johnson (TX)
Castor (FL)	Fields	Kaptur
Castro (TX)	Fletcher	Keating
Clark (MA)	Foster	Kelly (IL)
Clarke (NY)	Foushee	Kennedy (NY)
Cleaver	Frost	Khanna
Cohen	Garamendi	Krishnamoorthi
Conaway	Garcia (CA)	Larsen (WA)
Connolly	Garcia (IL)	Larson (CT)

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Massie

NOT VOTING—50

Aguilar	Gosar	Rivas
Bishop	Greene (GA)	Ruiz
Boyle (PA)	Grijalva	Scott, David
Brecheen	Harris (MD)	Sherman
Brownley	Hern (OK)	Sherrill
Buchanan	Kamlager-Dove	Smith (WA)
Case	Kustoff	Stanton
Chu	Letlow	Steube
Cloud	Lieu	Swalwell
Clyburn	Lofgren	Tiffany
Costa	Miller (IL)	Torres (CA)
De La Cruz	Moulton	Van Drew
DesJarlais	Murphy	Wagner
Dingell	Nadler	Waltz
Evans (PA)	Norman	Whitesides
Friedman	Obenrolte	Wilson (FL)
Garcia (TX)	Pingree	

□ 1337

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

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. LETLOW. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent today during the roll call vote on H.R. 23 — Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 7.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to the devastating wildfire affecting my district and Southern California, I missed the vote on final passage for the Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act, H.R. 23. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 7.

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent today and missed one vote on the House Floor. Had I been present, I would have voted the below, consistent with my YEA vote in the 118th Congress on June 4, 2024: YEA on Roll Call No. 7, Passage of H.R. 23 — Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not present for roll call votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 7.

Stated against:

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, due to the Eaton Fire in my district, I was unable to cast my vote today on H.R. 23—Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 7.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was unable to vote during the vote series today. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 7, H.R. 23—Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent today during rollcall No. 7 due to the

windstorms and ongoing fires affecting my district. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 7.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal matter, I was not in Washington D.C. today. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 7.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 7.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025, TO MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025

Mr. WIED. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday next, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

IN MEMORY OF SHARON PAYNE

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

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sharon Payne, a mother, grandmother, and dedicated teacher.

I was one of the lucky students to have learned from Mrs. Payne. In elementary, she instructed us all in our first rendition of "America the Beautiful."

She gave me my first piano lessons. She taught us all how to cheer on the Iowa Hawkeyes, and most importantly, she bonded a diverse group of young people together with the fundamentals for life, working together to make something beautiful.

Mrs. Payne will be greatly missed. She leaves behind a great legacy: her husband, Craig; her children; Laura and Brandt; and her entire family.

On behalf of all of her friends from Southeast Polk, all of the students she taught, and all the lives she continues to inspire, may Mrs. Payne rest in peace.

CONGRATULATING GOVERNOR GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the new Governor of Puerto Rico, my Caribbean sister and former Member of Congress, Jennifer González-Colón.

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on her remarkable work while a Member here in this body.

As co-chairs of the Rum Caucus, the first caucus dedicated to promoting the rum industry, we successfully advocated for the Rum Cover Over legisla-

tion, which increased the amount of tax revenue generated from the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico on rum that was sold in the mainland. Additionally, I am grateful for our bipartisan efforts to improve security in the Caribbean, ensuring that Federal agencies are properly equipped to hold drug traffickers accountable, and of course our work together to change the Stafford Act in 2018 after the devastating hurricanes of Irma and Maria in our district, which has brought billions of dollars to rebuild both the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Although her presence will be missed in Congress, I look forward to seeing the incredible impact she will have in her new role as Governor of Puerto Rico.

□ 1345

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

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

Mr. WIED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day to thank the great law enforcement heroes who put their life on the line every day for the people of Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District.

We are blessed to have so many great police departments within our district, as well as 11 fantastic sheriffs that have worked tirelessly for us every single day. I would like to give a special shout-out to each of our sheriffs:

Brown County Sheriff Todd Delain; Outagamie County Sheriff Clint C. Kriewaldt; Oconto County Sheriff Todd Skarban; Waupaca County Sheriff Tim Wilz; Door County Sheriff Tammy Sternard; Kewaunee County Sheriff Matt Joski; Shawano County Sheriff George Lenzner; Marinette County Sheriff Randy Miller; Calumet County Sheriff Brett Bowe; Menominee County Sheriff Rebecca Smith; Winnebago County Sheriff John Matz.

Mr. Speaker, I thank them all for what they do for the people of northeast Wisconsin on this National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and every day. Let us all remember to thank a law enforcement officer for keeping us safe.

LIFE AND LEGACY OF PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today our Nation paid tribute to the life and works of President Jimmy "James" Earl Carter here in the Nation's Capital. The ceremony was beautiful, appropriate, uplifting, and hopeful.

I had the privilege of serving him during his term in the White House,

and I can attest to the man he was: faithful, honorable, patriotic, measured, disciplined, and pensive, with the most genial, broad smile that came from growing up in a real community of family and friends.

He was a selfless, true American patriot. He was a graduate of the Naval Academy in the top 10 percent of his class. He was a dear friend of our Admiral Hyman Rickover, the Father of our Nuclear Navy who selected him among the best of individuals in our Nation.

The President founded the Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Education because he wanted to help with America's future security. I shall never forget the hope we all felt witnessing history when President Carter negotiated the historic peace treaty between Israel and Egypt with Menachim Begin and Anwar Sadat standing next to him on the lawn of the White House.

Finally, his brilliant national security team lead by Zbigniew Brzezinski that set in place the dominoes that would ultimately result in the collapse of the Soviet Union starting in Poland in 1989 and then 1991, the entire USSR, giving millions of people a chance to have liberty for the first time in 100 years or more.

Though he served just one term, the travails of that period blurred his extraordinary accomplishments. His historic accomplishments, subsequent to his elected service when he returned home, defined what a noble private citizen who never stops giving can do for his nation and world. President Jimmy Carter set a standard for generations to come. As time passes, he will shine forth in history as one of the rare, most honorable Presidents. He faced severe political trials and tribulations, yet gave everything he had to his family, our nation, and its future.

I believe that President Carter will go down in history like President Truman, an honest man, who, when he finished his service, went back home to a place called Plains, Georgia, where he and Rosalynn, his wife, and family lived out their years in a brick home that they built themselves when they were first married.

He was not interested in money. He was not interested in power. He was interested in preserving this republic and strengthening it. His life is a lesson to all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to place in the RECORD an article titled: "How Jimmy Carter's disdain for D.C. politics changed Washington."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRESNAHAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

HOW JIMMY CARTER'S DISDAIN FOR D.C. POLITICS CHANGED WASHINGTON

In a cynical time, Jimmy Carter spurned the establishment and attracted a generation of idealists.

(By Marc Fisher)

Marcy Kaptur was on the streets of Chicago's Near Northwest section, fending off real estate developers and a mayor who aimed to raze a struggling neighborhood.

Alexis Herman had been a social worker with Catholic Charities, trying to find jobs for poor people at a shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

Mary Elizabeth King was running a group designed to boost the paltry number of women in the top ranks of the federal government. And Joan Claybrook was one of Ralph Nader's Raiders, the cadre of lawyers and researchers around the country pushing for consumer protections.

In 1977, they and a few hundred idealistic, young, smart activists like them came to Washington to join Jimmy Carter's new administration—an injection of outsiders into a White House that took pride in breaking out from the standard D.C. playbook. Suddenly, the government was salted with battalions of aides and agency chiefs who came not from Capitol Hill jobs or lobbying firms, but from the anti-Vietnam War and civil rights movements, environmentalist and feminist groups, and an array of other non-profits.

In the aftermath of the Watergate scandal and Richard M. Nixon's disgracing of the White House, the country seemed cynical about government and all institutions of power. Along came Carter, the Democratic governor of Georgia who was allergic to lobbyists, disdainful of Washington's powerful social networks and adamant that government could be a force for good.

His idealistic aims didn't always produce results, and Carter, who died Dec. 29 at 100 years old, had to learn the hard way that in Washington, massaging people could be as important as having the facts on your side. But Carter's roster of ex-activists changed the face of government for his four years in office and, in some ways, for decades to come.

"All those other administrations, people go to dinner parties for 30 years and then get their big government job," said King, a veteran civil rights activist who had worked on anti-poverty programs in Georgia before being hired as Carter's deputy director of ACTION, the agency that ran volunteer programs such as the Peace Corps and VISTA.

"With Carter, people who viewed themselves as agents of social change just sensed that he was a completely different animal," she said. "The Carters were not themselves movement people; they didn't go to demonstrations. But they were tuned in to the injustices the movement was fighting."

Carter also saw in the activists a source of the knowledge that he valued more than political savvy.

"He's the engineer who became president," said Kai Bird, author of a recent biography, *"The Outlier: The Unfinished Presidency of Jimmy Carter."* "He valued expertise. He hired dozens of Ralph Nader acolytes because of their expertise on policy and their emphasis on making things work."

Carter "brought to Washington an idealism about clean government and about making government work," said Stuart Eizenstat, who as a young lawyer ran the new president's domestic policy shop. "It wasn't an express desire to have people without Washington experience, but we were really admonished by Carter to open up and bring in new people, and to include women, Blacks and Hispanics—a young, bright, diverse staff. We really didn't want just an older group from the Hill."

For Kaptur, the transition at age 30 from inner-city Chicago urban planner and activist to White House urban policy adviser grew out of a spiritual foundation and political outlook she shared with Carter. Both had a faith-based desire to push back against developers and big-city politicians and instead invest in grassroots housing and jobs programs in struggling urban neighborhoods.

Carter's interest in investing in Black neighborhoods emerged from his Christianity and his childhood in a majority-Black town in Georgia; Kaptur had worked for a Catholic priest who ministered to poor urban communities and pushed banks to finance projects in low-income areas.

"I was certainly someone who came into the administration from a very different place," said Kaptur, who has been a Democratic congresswoman from Ohio for four decades—a path she said "I could not have imagined if Carter hadn't seen me as the kind of person he wanted in government. To this day, every time I gavel my committee into session, I think, 'President Carter, this is for you.'"

But Kaptur, like other Carter alumni, said the president's good intentions often fell short of full achievement because "he was so preoccupied with the Arab oil embargo and the Iran hostage crisis. And I often felt like such a failure because again and again, the voice of the people got overwhelmed by the big-money interests."

Although administration alumni argue that Carter achieved far more than his failure to win reelection and his mediocre popularity ratings in the polls indicate, they concede that his disconnect with the Washington establishment—including his preference for outsiders—hindered his performance.

"The chemistry was never there," said Eizenstat, who wrote a history of the administration, *"President Carter: The White House Years."* "Carter could never satisfy the liberal wing of the party. He ran as an outsider, but when you're president, you're the ultimate insider."

"He tried to send a message by carrying his own luggage. He banned 'Hail to the Chief' for the first month, until we convinced him there's a certain majesty to the presidency. But the staff believed in him—young, very idealistic people who worked 24/7 and got a lot done. They were crushed by his defeat."

Four years after Carter arrived as the clean, soft-spoken antidote to Nixon's dark cynicism, he was swept out of office by another Washington outsider, Ronald Reagan, who captivated Americans with the opposite promise: to get government out of people's lives and dismantle many of the initiatives Carter had fought for.

But although the rhetoric of limited government became a powerful trope in the post-Carter era, the generation of idealistic liberals who served in his administration remained an influential presence in Washington, serving for decades as the intellectual and political engine of much of Democratic politics.

"Maybe we were really hired as understudies," Kaptur said, "and now, through fate, we can really do something for our country."

During and after his presidency, Carter was widely criticized by historians and politicians for taking his outsider approach too far and alienating establishment figures who could have helped him achieve more of his goals.

It's true that "there was a cultural disconnect" between Carter and the Capitol Hill veterans, lobbyists and Washington lawyers who view themselves as the country's permanent power structure, Bird said.

"Carter had no experience with the Georgetown set," he said. "He more than once turned down invitations from Katharine Graham," then the publisher of *The Washington Post* and a strong believer in the power of social relationships to grease the wheels of government.

Still, Carter's biographers have concluded that the young idealists he seeded through-

out the federal bureaucracy changed American life and the nation's role in the world by leading the deregulation of the airline and trucking industries, engineering diplomatic recognition of China, and emphasizing human rights in U.S. foreign policy.

"After Watergate, we were sort of the good guys," said Jay Beck, who came to the Carter White House from Georgia and has worked for decades since coordinating the Carter Center's relationship with alumni of the administration. "I spent the Watergate period screaming at the TV, and now, the feeling was 'Let's go tilt some windmills, let's do something good for the country.'"

Alexis Herman was 29, on a student trip in Europe on the night Carter was elected, and the headline she saw on a Paris newspaper the next morning has stuck with her: "Peanut Farmer Elected President."

This was not your standard-issue president, and that unusual pedigree led Herman, then working at an Atlanta campaign to place women of color in corporate jobs, to believe that she and other "ordinary people with practical backgrounds" had roles to play in the new administration.

Appointed head of the Women's Bureau, an office in the Labor Department that develops policies on behalf of working women, Herman found plenty of conflict on a staff that included both outsiders eager to change the world and people from more traditional places—Hill staffers, Washington lawyers, even some lobbyists.

"There was tension: We thought we were representing the people and they thought they knew what was going on and how to make things happen," Herman said.

The result was an array of ambitious plans to push American society to be greener, more equitable and more focused on the needs of people who felt disconnected from their government.

"Having people like us in the administration had a big impact on the kinds of policy initiatives Carter embraced," Herman said.

But many of those initiatives didn't get very far, in part because of Carter's disdain for the way Washington worked, said Claybrook, who served as Carter's head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration after years of working on auto safety issues with Nader.

"Carter really intensely disliked the lobbying crowd, all the White men who manipulated the government, the people who believed the way you get things done is you trade a railroad for an airport," said Claybrook, who went on to run Nader's Public Citizen organization for 26 years after Carter's term. "Carter would have none of that."

Claybrook said she got her job because the president "requested that a number of his appointees be women." She said she and many other outsiders in the administration adopted a more flexible approach than Carter's, engaging members of Congress and building relationships that could lead to deals.

Although the rift between insiders and outsiders was real, the outsiders often helped one another push through their priorities, Claybrook said. She recalled asking everyone at a White House staff meeting on regulatory issues to introduce themselves, and listening with pride as "three-quarters of the people turned out to have worked for Ralph and his public interest research groups."

HONORING THE LIFE OF LILLIAN BEAN

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a very dear friend of mine, Lillian Bean. She passed away at the age of 81.

She was the former Knox County Circuit, General Sessions, and Juvenile Court Clerk, an office she held for 18 years. She served with great integrity and pride and was truly a public servant as she was one of the people.

Lillian was a great leader in the Republican Party in Knox County, so much so she earned the nickname—and she really did earn this name—the “bean machine.” Lillian also had a bean soup recipe that she would can and give out to folks she cared about. My family and I were the recipients of that bean soup many times.

She served as president of Knoxville Women's Club and was given the honor of woman of the year three times by the Knoxville Women's Club for her volunteer spirit. If someone's name was in the paper, Lillian would clip it out and send it to that person just to let them know that she had read about them. I was fortunate enough to receive that many times.

She always had little ways to show people she cared, and they felt it. Lillian was a proud Baptist, and I have no doubt that the Lord welcomed her with open arms and a smile on His face. She will truly be missed. I think the first thing she heard was, well done, thy good and faithful servant, when she closed her eyes for the last time.

Lillian and her husband, Richard, have been good friends of mine. As a matter of fact, at their daughter's wedding was the last time I ever saw my parents healthy. That was a wonderful time.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF SANDRA MAE KING HALL

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Sandra Mae King Hall.

Sandra was born in Fresno, California. After graduating from San Joaquin Memorial High School, she pursued a career in real estate investment, property management, and newspaper distribution.

Sandra played a critical role in protecting local journalism with her husband, Frank Hall. She operated a newspaper distributorship providing local news to Pleasant Hill, California, residents from 1977 to 2009.

Sandra also received numerous accolades for her contributions to the community, including being selected as former Congressman George Miller's delegate at the 1986 White House Conference on Small Business.

Outside of her work as a small business owner, Sandra loved music, travel, and giving back to her community and family. Sadly, Sandra passed away last year at the age of 77. She will be re-

membered for her entrepreneurial spirit, sense of humor, and remarkable leadership.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Sandra Hall for her many contributions to her community. I will miss her and miss our friendship.

GET AT IT OR GET OUT OF THE WAY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, California is on fire once again. Only now, instead of burning up the red counties and the forested areas to the north, it is devastating portions of Los Angeles. Everybody is seeing it on the news.

Every year, we know the Santa Ana winds are going to blow. Every year, we know that there is going to be risk. What is our Governor doing to help stop the risk? He is doing virtually nothing, other than showing up for press conferences and waving his arms around and having long-practiced monologues about how it is someone else's fault, this or that.

It is time for the Governor to either bear down or get out of the way because California keeps suffering. My counties up north had the Carr fire, the Camp fire, the Dixie fire, 1 million acres, and now it is hitting the constituents of southern California hard.

Why does this have to keep happening? Why is nothing being done to mitigate the issue of forest management, of brush management, and lower the risk? Why is the water being cut off at the hydrants? Is it because he won't allow us to build the water storage we need for a growing population and for growing crops?

We need to build the Sites Reservoir. We need to raise the Shasta Dam. We need to not let all the water keep rushing out to the Pacific Ocean through the Delta to supposedly save a smelt that doesn't exist. We need to get cracking on this. Governor Newsom needs to get at it or get out of the way.

HONORING A DYNAMIC FATHER- DAUGHTER DUO

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, all rise. The atmosphere in the courtroom was full of emotion as Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Cy Grant took his seat on the bench to preside in a historic moment for North Carolina: A father and daughter would share the honor of being sworn in as district court judges.

The ceremony was inspiring, with Chief District Court Judge Teresa Freeman administering the oath of office to Judge Rob Lewis, II, who then had the cherished privilege of swearing in his daughter, Takiya Lewis Blalock,

with her husband, Nick, and children at her side.

Judge Lewis gave his daughter a heartfelt hug as she donned her black robe. The courtroom erupted in applause. Judge Blalock's son, Preston, spoke with great admiration for his mother while Judge Lewis broke down in tears, reminiscing how as a child she had envisioned them practicing together. There was a special recognition of her friend, Judge Brenda Branch.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate this dynamic father-daughter duo for making history.

CELEBRATING CATERPILLAR INCORPORATED'S CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true American success story, a company that I am proud to say resides in the Sixth Congressional District of Texas, Caterpillar Incorporated.

This week kicks off a celebration of 100 years of hard work, innovation, and industry leadership by this iconic company.

In 1925, the Holt Manufacturing Company and the C.L. Best Tractor Company came together to form what is now known as Caterpillar. Since then, they have been at the forefront of building the machines that build the world.

From their first track-type tractors pulling harvesters in California's fields to the cutting-edge autonomous equipment and engines they produce today, Caterpillar has shaped how we work, live, and connect.

In Texas where we pride ourselves on dreaming big and building even bigger, Caterpillar's role is front and center. Their equipment helps pave the roads, build the bridges, and support the energy projects that power not just our State, but the entire country.

They are not just part of the Texas story. They will help them write it. A company that has helped build our entire Nation could be located anywhere, but they are located in Texas. As Caterpillar celebrates 100 years, I extend my appreciation to their team for all they have accomplished to help our communities and our country thrive.

RECOGNIZING DR. DIMITRI KUSNEZOV

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

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Dimitri Kusnezov for his 23 years of service to our country.

While Dimitri's name might not be in the headlines, the impact of his life will be felt across our Nation forever. As Undersecretary for Science and

Technology at the Department of Homeland Security, Dimitri has been at the helm of cutting-edge innovation, pushing the boundaries of technologies like artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and cybersecurity, tools that protect American lives and keep us ahead of adversaries.

At the Department of Energy, Dimitri was the chief scientist for the NNSA and also stood up and led the Office of Artificial Intelligence Technologies. As he retires, I truly wish him the greatest journey in the next chapter of his life. Fair winds and following seas.

THE BORROWING PROBLEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, for the gentleman from Pennsylvania, a bit of reference, in the old days when we were put in the chair, particularly when we were freshman, it is because we had been annoying to the Speaker. I don't know if anyone remembers that.

I love the clerk staff, I appreciate them, and I am sorry to say we are about to do a whole bunch of math and a lot of numbers really fast, but it is where we are at.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things I am going to try to do today is basically sell two ideas. One is—and I want to be honest and careful in this because my goal is not to be sarcastic, not to be a jerk, but walk through the scale—just the scale—of the borrowing, the debt problem of our demographics, what is really going on.

□ 1400

Mr. Speaker, I am going to walk through just a couple of examples of solutions we get from our wonderful, brilliant constituents and sort of explain there are probably things we should do, but they are tiny rounding errors.

People don't understand. Annually, I think we expect to borrow about \$7 billion a day. I think, so far this fiscal year, we are borrowing about \$10 billion a day.

The second thing is incredibly important. If there is a staffer out there or a freshman Member of Congress, burn what we are going to talk about into their consciousness. In the United States, what is the greatest at least economic threat I think we have for this government, in many ways, for the country? Interest. We are what is called interest fragile.

I am going to show you some charts where tiny movements on U.S. sovereign debt become trillions and trillions of dollars. Our model basically says we are going to refinance almost \$10 trillion this year and add another—what?—\$2 trillion, \$2-1/3 trillion of vir-

gin or new borrowing, small bits of interest.

When you hear someone talk about things like the debt ceiling, you have to understand that you are weaving a needle while jogging because you have to deal with it in a way where you communicate and do actual policy that communicates to the world's debt markets that the United States is taking its debt seriously and understands the scale of the problem and then also while extending that debt ceiling in a way that also doesn't blow you up.

Some of my brothers and sisters will go: Just don't raise it. Okay, great. Do you think you are ever getting a mortgage again? Do you ever think you are getting a car loan again? Do you understand what would happen to the world economy going boom and interest rates exploding when all of a sudden the United States is no longer credit worthy? That is what it means.

Remember one of my predictions for this year. There are three big rating agencies, S&P, Fitch, and Moody's. Moody's is the only one that has not downgraded U.S. debt yet. I predict to you that, before this year is over, Moody's or all three will have downgraded U.S. sovereign debt.

My other prediction is, before the spring is over, the United States will cross over to 5 percent interest. If it holds there, I am going to show you how devastating that math absolutely is.

The clown show has to come to an end. People need to understand that if you are a Member of Congress, you are the board of the biggest economy in the world. You have to start learning your math because, at the end of the day, the math will always win.

Let's do some basic things. The reason I am doing this is because I want to make the moral argument of doing the really hard thing in reconciliation. It is also the best economics. If you give a darn about your retirement, my 2½-year-old boy's economic future, the country, you have to do the hard thing.

CBO and then my Joint Economic Committee economists actually worked through some math saying what would happen because we have all these expiring provisions of TCJA, the 2017 tax reform. If you extend them all—the individual, the passthroughs, the small businesses, the subchapter S's, the partnerships—if you extend those tax provisions over 10 years, it is about \$4.6 trillion of revenue that would have come in because of the increased taxes because of the expired provisions.

What is this body able to do to find policies to offset that spending? It turns out CBO, and I know this chart is a little hard to read, but the punch line on it is, if you functionally extend the tax policy but you pay for it, through the decade, you actually get more economic growth. The economy actually grows.

People say, oh, but you reached in and pulled money out to pay for the

offset. The idea is, by doing that, you haven't deficit-financed it where you are paying interest, where you are making the debt markets more fragile, and you are also pulling \$4.6 trillion additional capital out of the debt markets that could have gone into you buying a new car or the business buying new plants and equipment.

This is hard because, around here, talking about modernizing how we deliver healthcare, modernizing public agencies, reduce spending by doing it better, faster, and cheaper, there is an army of lobbyists outside in the hallway here who are paid to protect their current business models.

How many folks do we meet from the agencies and the public employee unions that get all upset, particularly at me when I am doing these presentations of, here, we can use technology, we can use AI, these other things to reduce the size and cost and make government much more responsive? Then, they send nasty letters and those things into your district and complain about you. We don't have a choice.

Let's walk through. The facts are on our side. Those folks that run around here and say we need to extend tax policy, protect the border, actually do all these things, you can't create an additional fiscal rathole and expect you are going to throw this back onto the world debt markets.

The reason I want you to think about this is I am going to show you a couple of charts in a little while where interest rates were on U.S. sovereigns way back when. Let's go back to December, a few weeks ago.

Yesterday, the 20-year U.S. bond actually crossed over 5 percent for a while. If 5 percent—anyone with gray hair, you understand 5 percent is actually lower than the historical average of the previous few decades. If we would just go to 5 percent, you are going to see that is almost just shy of an additional \$9 trillion in debt, double of everything we are talking about doing in reconciliation.

Just do this and communicate to the debt markets that we are serious about what is going on because the uncomfortable truth is that—and I am going to show it again, and it seems to hurt people's feelings—almost 100 percent of the debt for the next 10 years is interest and Medicare.

We got older. Baby boomers are moving into their earned benefits. We didn't have enough children to backfill. Starting in 1990, fertility rates started to roll over. Healthcare got much more expensive. We are almost terrified to basically say almost every dime of debt from today through the next 30 years is interest and demographics.

The political class, the press, the dopamine hits on cable television, this and that, telling true math doesn't make you popular. It does make you honest.

Let's walk through a couple of examples. Once again, I have to be careful. These are not meant to be snarky.

They are basically a thought experiment of what you hear Members walking behind these microphones and saying that things are great, wonderful, maybe we should do them, but they have tiny effects on the survival of this Republic.

Let's walk through and explain what I am talking about. Let's walk through the impact of borrowing where we are using this fiscal year, what we have been borrowing per day, per hour, per minute, per second. We are going to walk through, and I am using the clock thing. These are 12-hour clocks. You have to picture two clock faces. I am trying to make some way where you make things with lots of zeros understandable.

This is one of my favorite ones. Back in December, we did send out some things, and we got members of our communities to throw back ideas.

One of the favorite ones was to get rid of congressional salaries. Okay. In my heart of heart, I think we are overpaid for the quality of our work product. Maybe that is what we should do. Get rid of every congressional salary—that is, the Senate and here. Just get rid of all of it. Over a fiscal year, it is about \$1.9 billion. That is a lot of money.

For an entire year's borrowing, for the entire year, it would cover 6.4 hours. Yay, we made a big impact. We covered 6.4 hours of an entire year's worth of borrowing.

That is sort of silly, but that is one of the key responses we got. I think it may say more about what they think about me.

Let's do another one that came back to us from our constituent survey. Emergency services for undocumented migrants, this is basically ObamaCare subsidies, healthcare spending for those who are here undocumented. They are illegal. Most of this turns out, we believe, to be ObamaCare subsidies. You will hear Member after Member and people on television, the talking hosts, on conservative talk radio, if we just didn't spend that money. Okay, we actually did this thing called research where we looked up the actual facts of the math. It is about \$2.7 billion for the entire year. We get rid of it, and we probably should, but it is 9 hours of borrowing for an entire year. Yet, how many times will you hear people say this in front of microphones? Stopping healthcare subsidies for those who are here undocumented, here illegally, is 9 hours of borrowing for an entire year.

There is our problem. We have people doing theater over honest math.

Let's do another one, one of my particular favorites. Let's get rid of the Department of Education. Actually, I am a big fan because if you believe in the 10th Amendment of the Constitution, why is this here at the Federal Government? A big portion of their 4,500 employees is actually debt management, but that can be done by other agencies we have that have high-

skilled folks to manage receivables and those things.

If you got rid of all those 4,500 employees from the Department of Education, great. It turns out to be about \$2.75 billion over an entire year you just covered. Functionally, that is 9 hours of borrowing.

How many people have you heard come behind these microphones or on conservative talk radio or other things that are saying that we are going to get rid of the Department of Education? Great. Then, the conversation moves on to something else because they act like they have covered the debt. There is this lack of understanding. We are borrowing about \$70,000 a second.

Let's go on and do another one we can get rid of. Let's get rid of the U.N. I have done this a couple of times. When I did it before, the total spend on the United Nations was \$18.1 billion, but that was in the 2023 fiscal year, but that had a bunch of the new construction. For the 2024 fiscal year, which has ended already, we spent \$12.9 billion on the U.N., or maybe it is in this fiscal year that is what we have appropriated. \$12.9 billion is a lot of money. Let's just get rid of it.

I am not going to even give you the other chart that shows you how much all of these foreign diplomats and stuff pay into taxes, into the things they buy, the rent, those things in New York City. Who cares?

That \$12.9 billion gets me 43 hours, so basically a day and three-quarters of borrowing.

My point, as I am trying to walk through, is that we are probably going to have to do lots and lots of these things. Start demanding from the people who are standing up in front of you saying, "Here is what I care about, and we are going to take on the debt and deficits," have them understand their math.

How about Ukraine aid? I think this is for this fiscal year. The appropriation lineup is \$21.8 billion. That gets us 3 days of borrowing. You hear these crazy numbers being thrown out. It turns out now this is both humanitarian and, I think, actually the other term—it is things that provide equipment. Often, it is equipment we depreciated out and we are going to get rid of it. We send it on to them.

□ 1415

This is both categories in that number of the 21.8, but it is 3 days. Let's actually even add a little bit. Let's go grander. Let's go much more bigly. I think that is a pop culture term these days. Let's just get rid of all foreign aid.

I cannot tell you how many times I run into folks back home who say: "DAVID, I am so concerned about the debt and deficit. We can balance everything if we just get rid of foreign aid."

Okay. Interesting math.

We did the math. Here is the 57.25 that is going to foreign aid. It is a

week of borrowing. Does anyone see the point I am trying to make? You start to add up all of these, and I think in all of those, we have got ourselves to what, a week and a half? We added up all the ideas that came into our office, and I think we got up to 3 weeks of borrowing.

There seems to be this lack of understanding. Every dime a Member of Congress votes on is borrowed money. Every dime of defense is borrowed, every dime of nondefense discretionary, and this year—I am doing this off the top of my head, which is always dangerous—I think it is \$400 billion of what we call earned benefits, mandatory spending, is borrowed money.

I am trying to just demonstrate—there is this term we do called "on-budget receipts." You get your paycheck. You look at your paycheck. Here is what went to FICA. That is the Social Security contribution, a little bit of your Medicare part A contribution, maybe a little bit of unemployment disability. That is sort of considered off-budget tax contributions. That is coming from your FICA tax.

The other part is your income tax, capital gains tax, all the other things. That is this blue here. To give you an idea, this is the net interest this fiscal year, the interest we pay back to the people who have been kind enough to buy our bonds.

Remember, China is not the number one owner of bonds. I think now it is Japan. China has been actually rolling off its bonds for 3 or 4 years. I think they are somewhere now in the \$900 billion range of the \$36 trillion in debt we have. Remember, about \$28 trillion, \$29 trillion of that is what we sell off to the market. The other we borrow internally. We borrow from the Social Security trust fund, and we borrow other moneys internally, but we still have to pay interest.

Remember, we are one of the only countries in the world that engages in this scam of saying it is only the publicly borrowed money. No. You are not going to pay your interest back to Social Security? Of course you are.

The point of this chart is trying to say accounting accounts for 24 percent of all those tax receipts we take in that aren't Social Security, aren't part of those payroll taxes, 24 percent, is just going to pay interest, and that is this year.

The crazy thing is that these numbers were scored when we thought the mean interest on U.S. sovereign debt was going to be somewhere around 3 to 3.25 percent.

Have you seen what has happened in the last 3 weeks? Did I mention a moment ago that the 20-year bond yesterday went over 5 percent?

This number is about to explode on us. It is called interest fragility. Yet, how many idiots like me have come behind the microphone and said: Do you understand how dangerous it is if we make the debt markets nervous because we are incompetent?

Let's do one more of these just to make the point.

This is tax receipts for fiscal year 2024. It is a fixed number. That is the last fiscal year. The red here, that is the Social Security taxes, Medicare part A, et cetera. This was everything else. Even in that case, it is still basically 24 percent of all—it is still 24 here. I just did this chart so you can see, when you hear someone talk about total tax receipts, this is obligated to earned benefits.

Oddly enough, this number isn't big enough to cover the earned benefits. That is why every month Social Security has to present its special T bills to Treasury, cash in. Remember, Social Security does not add to the debt. Cashing in their special T bills and the Treasury having to finance it and give the money back to Social Security does add to the debt. Remember, there are two steps in there.

Back to the oldie but goodie. Everything in red, that is on autopilot. If you remember, Congress doesn't vote on it. What is in blue, nondefense and defense, is all borrowed along with a whole wedge of this over here.

You have to understand the scale. It is hard to see 12 zeros in your head, but it is just a trillion. We are probably going to borrow \$2-½ trillion this year.

We have these debates and discussions about we are going to have reconciliation. Yes, of course we are. We still don't have 60 votes in the Senate. If we are going to move policy, of course we are.

Understand the fiscal implications. If we don't do it right, do the debt markets demand a premium? Because you see what is going on around the world. What happened in Great Britain this summer? What did they do to the gilt? What happened in France a couple weeks ago? What is happening in Germany right now? What is happening in Canada? What happened in South Korea?

All over the world, you see governments falling. One of the primary reasons they are falling is they actually tried to engage in some fiscal constraint.

Are we going to be elegant enough to do it in a way where we can explain to the American people that if we do something smart today, we do not get crushed tomorrow?

Small movements in interest rates start to consume everything in this government. Here is an example. I told you the 20-year yesterday went over 5 percent. If anyone is a real geek, if you take a look at the futures market on the 10-year sovereign, some of the futures market between now and through spring actually expect a 5 percent interest rate. Remember, that is still a point, point and a quarter lower than the historic average when you get rid of the previous decade, which was sort of fake interest rates. If we were to go to 5 percent of U.S. debt, that is actually fairly normal and that gets built in. Remember, we bring about \$10 trillion to refinance.

Let's look at 5 percent. We go from a \$13 trillion, almost \$14 trillion debt expectation at current interest rates over the next 10 years to \$22.7. It is almost \$9 trillion additional from where interest rates were in December to where it looks like interest rates are going to be this spring. You just added \$9 trillion in additional interest. That is called interest rate fragility. That is double. Just the interest rate exposure going back to even something that is below a historic norm is double everything we are talking about doing in tax reform, of extending the TCJA 2017 tax policy. It is double.

This should be scaring the crap out of people around here. Why am I the only idiot running around with charts saying: Are you paying attention to this? Are you watching what is happening in world debt markets right now? Does this make anybody nervous?

Some of the articles are basically saying bond markets around the world are getting nervous loaning to sovereigns because they keep borrowing like crazy. What is going on in China where they are borrowing like crazy? We are borrowing like crazy. There is only so much borrowable money in the world, and we are chewing it up.

The point of this one was if we were to ignore the law and just extend our spending policies we have today, in functionally 9 budget years, 9.2 percent of the entire economy is just interest.

We expect almost 7 percent of this year to be borrowing, but the concept of just—let me rephrase it, because I just screwed that up. 9.2 percent of the entire economy will be debt, not interest. It will be debt.

A couple of our economists basically say we are going to borrow about 7 percent of the entire economy this year. If we don't start to stabilize that and roll it down, you hit this interest spiral into the ground.

I am going to show you a couple of charts here, that should scare the crap out of you, of how much of the taxes we take in from hardworking people is just paying interest.

Let's make that a little more understandable.

Mr. Speaker, some of us with gray hair remember—as Mr. GREEN laughs at me. There is this thing called the seventies, eighties, nineties, even the 2000s before the Great Recession, and the mean interest rate on U.S. debt was about 6.

This is just an example of what it means when you are carrying \$36 trillion in debt. Understand, we are adding another trillion of debt about every 125 days. Let me say that again. Every 125 days, we basically tack on another trillion dollars of borrowing.

If we went to a historic average of 6 percent, it would be 11 percent of GDP in a decade. What if we went up to 9 percent, which we had back in the seventies and eighties? You are at 18 percent.

We are playing really dangerous games here. We have almost made the

decision to make the world debt markets the ones in charge of America.

Every second, we are borrowing about \$70,000. Do you not think the retired couple, the foreign government, the big business, the rich people who are buying U.S. savings bonds—are you pretending they don't actually care about what we do here and that we are going to make sure they get their money back, or is it all just magic money?

Understand what that 6 percent—this is sort of the punch line of what I am trying to communicate here. By 2034, 9 budget years from now, debt servicing at 6 percent, so back even below the historic average rates, interest would consume 45 percent of all tax receipts.

Let's do that again. Imagine a world where 45 percent of all tax receipts that come into the government are just for paying interest.

Take this seriously.

I have a 9-year-old. And my wife and I, who is exactly my age, we also adopted another little boy from the same birth mom. He is 2½ years old and the cutest kid you ever met. Our little girl is brilliant and very loud.

The math basically says my kids and your kids will be part of the first generation of Americans to actually be poor. To give you an idea how that math works, when little Matthew, who is 2½ right now, is 23 or 24, if you wanted to maintain baseline services in America as they are today, every U.S. tax rate, tariff, corporate, individual, everything, has to double, a 100 percent increase. It is not pretend. It is called math.

□ 1430

These are little things. You punch it, and you can put batteries in them. Hell, Mr. Speaker, you probably have one in your phone.

It is math, but we are terrified to tell our voters the truth because people raise their eyebrows and get upset when you say: Look, we got old as a society. We didn't have as many children, we made lots of promises, and we never set aside enough money for them. However, we can disrupt the cost if we are willing to adopt modernization. You can cut stunning amounts of money from delivery of healthcare not by cutting services but by adopting technology. Except, once again, the lobbyists are in the hallway to stop you from doing that because it would make them change their bureaucracies and the business models.

A number like this should make us all pucker, that if we just went back to normal interest rates, in 9 years, 45 percent of all of our tax receipts go into just interest. That is called interest fragility. The single thing that scares me the most in the society is that we are no longer in charge. We basically made the decision that the debt markets are.

So let's actually get a little more dystopian, and part of this is to make an impact.

What if we went to 9 percent interest?

It has happened.

What would happen?

Mr. Speaker, can anyone read this number?

Eighty-three percent of all tax receipts would go just to interest.

Here is the reality of today: For every dollar we take in in tax receipts, we spend \$1.39.

Yet, what we call discretionary, military has been substantially flat, all other nondefense discretionary is basically flat, almost all the growth is two things: in healthcare and in interest.

We can't do anything about interest. The deal is the deal is the deal when we sell a bond. As far as healthcare, once again, there is an army of lobbyists, once again, outside these walls, who will beat the absolutely living blank out of us when we ask them to modernize and actually use technology.

Even our brothers and sisters here are often defending not the last decade, but the business models from the decade before that within healthcare.

We don't have a choice. Open up your brain, Mr. Speaker, hire a computer brain. Hire some kid who is a data analyst scientist and start walking through the facts of what is going on. Then we have to do hard things. We will have to do a revolution.

Have you seen the numbers coming out of Medicare Advantage?

Has anyone taken a look at those Wall Street Journal articles from last year of the billions and billions and billions that they are documenting that are functionally fraud and abuse?

Are we going to be honest about it?

There are ways elegantly to fix it without beating the crap out of everyone. We just need to recognize our own problems.

Once again, for every dollar the United States takes in in tax receipts, we spend \$1.39.

Right now, I need to go back to an oldie but a goodie. I have done entire floor presentations repeatedly on this. You take all the tax hike proposals of our brothers and sisters on the left, Mr. Speaker, and score them for their economic specs, it will produce about 1½ points of GDP of new tax receipts. You take for our side, Mr. Speaker, all the cuts we have talked about, almost all of them being in nondefense discretionary, it is about one point of GDP. Add those two together and that is what, 2½. Congratulations.

So everything the talking heads do behind these microphones is 2½ percent. We are borrowing 7 percent this year of the entire economy, and here is your crisis: The solutions sound really good in a television commercial and maybe an interview on cable television, and they are crap math. They don't get us anywhere close to what is necessary because it turns out the actual scale of the math is so far beyond just raising people's taxes and just slash and burn this. You need a revolution on how we deliver on our commitments.

Why is that harder?

I still can't get my head around why that is harder. Once again, the single chart that makes people most angry, and it is already 1 year out of date, the numbers right now are much worse, CBO predicts that deficits of \$115 trillion over 2024 to 2054, Social Security, Medicare, \$124 trillion deficit, the rest of the budget has a \$9 trillion surplus.

Do you see, Mr. Speaker?

The spending and the interest covered, the spending and the interest covered, remember, Mr. Speaker, Social Security has about 9 more years and the trust fund is empty.

Are we going to fix it?

Are we allowed to talk about it?

If we talk about it, then the Democrats will run nasty ads about you. So somehow, they are comfortable with the immorality that in 9 years we are going to double senior poverty in America, because that is what is happening. However, Mr. Speaker, you are not allowed to talk about it because they will attack you.

They spent about a couple of a million dollars beating the crap out of me because I care about saving Social Security, and I care about not doubling senior poverty.

Somehow lying about it is the political tactic of this place?

They care so much more about power than saving our brothers and sisters?

We already have a crisis right now of baby boomers, inflation pushing them out of their housing. I think it was last year I saw the statistic on baby boomers' doubling of homelessness, because they are being priced out of their homes because of inflation. That is the morality of this place because we do crap economics. It is because we make public policy by our feelings instead of math.

The reality of it, Mr. Speaker, if you look at the CBO projection, now this is 1 year, 1½ years ago, so inflation has trimmed off a bit from their numbers, interest rates are substantially higher, these numbers are going to pop when they redo them because of the higher interest rates.

I was trying to do it, it is dangerous when I try to do these things off the top of my head, but I was coming in about \$133, \$136 trillion of borrowing over 30 years because of the higher interest rates, and it could be substantially higher if we are actually truly at a five or six.

The point is, debate after debate after debate after debate, we stand here and we argue about the nondefense discretionary, which is like 13 percent of the spending, and even in this projection it actually grows slower than tax receipts.

So we are going to head towards doing reconciliation. We are going to try to do policy. We have a new President coming in who has a vision of growth for the country.

Are we, as the board of directors, as the Founding Fathers designed it, going to step up and do our job and actually save the future?

Are we going to avoid the hardest thing we do, and that is telling the truth to our voters, and maybe even telling the truth to each other?

There is still hope.

One of our economists actually has this chart he has been working on and he has been saying you may only have 3 or 4 more years if interest rates keep moving up where it is almost too late. You can't work yourself out of the higher interest rate cycle because the additional debt, the interest rate, the additional debt, the interest rate—and I think it was 1 year ago when we actually had a couple of months, 3 or 4 months, where we had to borrow money to cover our borrowing.

Mr. Speaker, there is hope. There is a way to make the math work. There is a way to do it in a moral fashion. It has been said that when you have a complex problem, it turns out the solutions are complex.

Is the modern Congress capable of doing complexity?

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

AND STILL I RISE: THE PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. And I rise today in the name of government of the people, by the people, and for the people; not government of the oligarchs, by the oligarchs, for the oligarchs; or for the plutocrats; and I surely do not rise in the name of government by the mob and for the mob.

No, I rise in the name of government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Today, as I rise, I am going to give two important reasons why Vice President HARRIS presided over a Republican certification process earlier this week.

Stated differently, I am going to give two important reasons why Democrats did not get the most electoral votes.

First, allow me to commend Vice President HARRIS for leading the United States of America, our country, back to the moral high ground. I was proud to be here. In fact, I was seated on this very row at the very end. I was proud to be here when the doors opened and the words were spoken: the Vice President of the United States and the Senate.

There she stood. She came forward. As she came forward, she was quite statuesque, comely, and courtly. She looked almost majestic as she walked in.

As she moved down towards the front of the room, I, in my mind, recited a part of the 23rd Psalm: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil."

I am not saying that she was walking through the valley of the shadow of

death. What I am saying is that I knew that if she could walk through the valley of death and fear no evil, then surely she could walk through the Halls of Congress and fear no evil.

As she moved forward, I was taken to a point in my life when a song meant something to me. The song was "You'll Never Walk Alone."

She walked forward, never to walk alone.

When you walk through a storm, hold your head up high. Don't be afraid of the dark.

Then, near the last stanza, the words are:

Walk on, walk on through the winds of life.

I am paraphrasing.

Walk on through the storms of life, and you will never walk alone.

She proceeded up to the dais. As she stood there announcing the number of electoral votes from the various States, I could see her standing there alone, and I am reminded as she did so of another song. This song has to do with standing, standing alone.

The words are: Just stand. After you have done all that you can, just stand.

I was reminded of all that she did. She worked hard. She worked long hours. She put everything into it. After you have done all that you can, then just stand. Sometimes it is better to stand alone, which is what she did, than not stand at all. It is better to stand alone than not stand at all.

So I am so proud of what she did because in doing this, she helped us to reclaim the moral high ground that we lost 4 years ago on January 6, to reclaim that moral high ground because as she was presiding over the certification process, it was more than Vice President HARRIS presiding or Vice President Pence when he presided. It was the candidate who ran for President and did not win certifying that the opposing candidate won. That was the moral high ground. That is something that the United States of America has had, and she was reclaiming it for the world to let the world know that in the United States of America, we know how to win, but, more importantly, we know how to lose.

She claimed the moral high ground for this country, and in so doing, she was more than an example. She was an exemplar. She was a supreme and superb standard for the kind of behavior that ought to be exhibited on occasions such as the one she was presiding over.

She made it clear to those who will look back in time upon this time that there are people among us who have dignity and respect for the process.

□ 1445

She made it clear that, while she did not win, she respected the process and announced the winner.

I think that Vice President HARRIS can forever know that she has brought this country to another place. Many countries around the world envy what we were able to do this year and this

week, juxtaposed to what did not occur 4 years ago, when a mob disrupted the process at the behest of the President of the United States of America.

Who can deny that? Who can deny that they came here at the urging of the President of the United States of America and that their behavior was nothing near exemplary? Their behavior was shameful. They marched with symbols of Nazism, with a gallows. They marched saying ugly things and making vile comments. They stormed the Capitol of the United States of America.

In so doing, their behavior was disdainful and shameful as they marched through the Halls. Some even went so far as to defecate in the Capitol, in places where one would not expect such things to occur. Yes, there was a difference between this year and what happened 4 years ago, and that is because we had a Vice President who was a candidate for President and who understood the necessity to have a peaceful transfer of power.

Though Vice President HARRIS stood alone, she stood alone at a time when it was appropriate and necessary. I have said it many times, and I will say it one more. There are times when it is better to stand alone than to not stand at all, as Vice President HARRIS did, and she shall be remembered in history as bringing us back to the moral high ground.

Mr. Speaker, I will give the two reasons why she didn't preside over her own certification and why Democrats didn't get the most electoral votes. There are two reasons. They had to do with legislation that was not passed. I am going to walk through the legislation, and then I will give the two reasons as to why the legislation didn't pass.

The legislation. I have noted six pieces of legislation: The PRO Act, the John Lewis Voting Rights Act—I have shortened the title—George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, comprehensive immigration reform, and legislation to raise the minimum wage, as well as to pass the Equality Act. I have noted those six.

Now let's take a look at these six with a bit more information. This is legislation that would have made a difference for America and Americans.

Starting with the PRO Act, the PRO Act would have benefited all Americans. Labor unions were obviously desirous of having it pass, but it would have benefited all Americans. It would have benefited American laborers, the working class. It would have been the legislation that we need to help close the wage gap. This wage gap is something that has to be dealt with because, from 1967 to today's date, that wage gap has increased exponentially.

Currently, the median income for a CEO is about \$16 million. It is \$16.3 million, to be a little bit more specific. The annual median income for a minimum wage worker at \$7.25 an hour is a lot less than that CEO who is making

\$16 million. In fact, the CEO making \$16 million would make 1,000 times more than the minimum wage worker at \$7.25 an hour, which would be something more than about \$15,000 annually.

Who can survive on \$7.25 an hour in the United States of America? You have to have at least two jobs and maybe three. A family would have to have at least two persons working.

The minimum wage has to be raised. If we pass the PRO Act, labor would be in a position to defend the desire and the need to raise the minimum wage and could have pushed more for a higher wage. We have to raise it to a living wage.

If we should raise it to a living wage, then we can start to close this wealth gap. Raising it to a living wage won't do it in and of itself. There is much more that has to be done, but that is a pretty good start.

It would also help us to protect the right to organize. That right to organize is a means by which labor can move forward en masse to negotiate and to do that which is necessary to cause the industries in this country to raise the minimum wage.

We have more States in this country with a minimum wage above \$7.25 an hour than not. In fact, the States are ahead of the Congress. The Congress needs to catch up with the States and move on beyond that. A wage of \$7.25 an hour is what is known as a slave wage in many quarters.

We need to pass the PRO Act. We did not. I will explain why in a moment. There are two reasons.

The John Lewis Voting Rights Act, had we passed it, would have enfranchised more voters and caused greater participation in the process. This act would have helped us by reinstating a version of the Voting Rights Act. In fact, it was in *Shelby County v. Holder* that the Voting Rights Act was weakened greatly when section 4 of it was declared unconstitutional and the preclearance portion of it in section 5 could no longer be exercised.

This Voting Rights Act would have helped to reinstate a version of the preclearance process. This Voting Rights Act would have helped to allow people to vote without fear of having the hours set such that it didn't help persons who might work late hours. There are some people who work late hours. They work into the morning hours.

In Houston, at one point, we had an opportunity to vote 24-7, 24 hours in a given day. I went out to see the people who were coming in to vote. Well, we can no longer do that, but had this version of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act passed, we would have made it easier for people to vote, harder for people to cheat, and brought more people into the process. We would have had greater participation. It did not pass.

George Floyd Justice in Policing Act did not pass. This wouldn't have cured but would have assisted in arresting

bad police behavior. My colleagues have seen the videos. I don't have to try to convince people anymore that there are bad police officers. Not all police officers are bad. Some are. This doesn't mean that you should paint all officers with the same brush. It simply means that the bad ones have to be weeded out.

This piece of legislation, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, would have helped us to weed them out. It would have also dealt with these no-knock laws that have cost lives, dealt with chokeholds that have taken lives.

The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act would have made a difference, and I can say there were many of my constituents who were eager to see the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act pass and who were very disappointed when it did not. Many of my constituents were disappointed when the John Lewis Voting Rights Act didn't pass. American minorities, a good many, were disappointed.

These pieces of legislation could have made a difference in voter participation.

Let's move on to three more.

Comprehensive immigration reform. This was a key piece of legislation that would have addressed the border issues, addressed labor issues, H-1B issues, all of these various means by which persons could come into the country for various purposes associated with work.

Family reunification issues. This country has a history of keeping families together. We have strayed away from that history. This piece of legislation, comprehensive immigration reform, would have addressed that issue, and it also would have addressed discontentment.

What is discontentment? I hear it quite regularly when I am out and about. I go into places where people are buying food. I hear people talking. Many of them are not talking to me. Many of them do talk to me and explain what I am about to tell you.

There are people in this country who just don't believe that it is fair and that it is right for persons who are coming into the country to receive what they perceive as benefits that they are not receiving. They talk about this discontentment. They are not pleased with the way the system is functioning.

Comprehensive immigration reform could have given us the opportunity to address this issue. It did not pass.

Of course, raising the minimum wage, I have spoken about this and closing the wage gap. When you raise the minimum wage, you do something that we talk about here quite often, and that is the rising tide theory. A rising tide will raise all boats, we say.

Raising the minimum wage would create that rising tide that would raise the wages above the minimum wage. The minimum wage has an impact not only on those who are receiving it but also others who are workers. It has an impact on the working class.

Raising the minimum wage would have made a difference. I assure you there are people who would have been grateful that the minimum wage was raised, and it would have inspired them to come to the polls to vote.

The Equality Act. This act would have protected the LGBTQ community. It would protect their civil rights and their human rights.

Yes, the Supreme Court made a ruling about discriminating against persons because of their sexuality, but that is not enough. We have many more means by which they can be protected if we pass the Equality Act.

Having gone through these six pieces of legislation, there are more. The Paycheck Fairness Act, that would help women to achieve equal pay for equal work. Women now make less than 90 cents for every dollar a man makes, generally speaking, in the country. That is all women.

Over some number of years, I saw a figure of a trillion dollars having been lost because women are making so much less. I believe that it was from the year 1967, and I think it was up to last year.

That is a trillion dollars. Assuming that my numbers are a little bit off—maybe I didn't get the years exactly right—a trillion dollars is still a trillion dollars, and it was lost. That is money lost for healthcare, money lost for schools, children going to school, buying food, buying clothing, providing shelter, and also money lost for a pension, something to retire with. It is lost because women are making less than men in the richest country in the world. They still do make pennies on the dollar. That is what women are making compared to what men make.

□ 1500

So, the query is: Why did we not pass all of these pieces of legislation? The answer is because we had two Senators—two Senators, not the entire Democratic Party; not all the Democratic leadership, two Senators—who would not do what Republicans did when they wanted to get a certain Supreme Court nominee confirmed.

When Republicans wanted to confirm a certain Supreme Court nominee, they challenged the process of coming to cloture and, in so doing, moved to a point where you could appoint that nominee to the Supreme Court with 51 votes as opposed to 60. They did that, and it was along party lines. All the Republicans voted to change the rules.

Mr. Speaker, to his credit, Senator SCHUMER brought the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act that I have called to your attention to the floor of the Senate. To simplify it, he made a request that it be passed with 51 votes as opposed to having to hit the 60-vote threshold and then come back and pass it with 51 votes. He made the request. It would have passed but for two Senators. These are the two reasons, two Senators, two Democratic Senators.

Now, why would I focus on Democratic Senators when the Republicans voted against it? Because if you make your deposits in the Democratic Party, you expect your interests to come from the Democratic Party. You may get some from someplace else, but you expect the Democratic Party to perform. If you put your money into a Democratic corporation, you expect Democratic dividends.

The Democrats, two of them, chose not to allow the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to pass the Senate, which is an indication that none of the other legislation could have passed with 51 votes.

Here is what would have happened had it passed: 50 Democrats would have voted to allow it to pass with 51 votes. That is not a majority. The Vice President would be the tiebreaker. The Vice President would have said to the world that we passed the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and I was proud to break the tie. We passed the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act; I was proud to break the tie. We passed the PRO Act; I was proud to break the tie. We passed the Equality Act; I was proud to break the tie.

All of these various pieces of legislation could have been passed but for two reasons. Two Senators did not do what more than 50 Republicans did to claim another seat on the Supreme Court.

Mr. Speaker, the prognostication from me—I am speaking for myself and no one else—is that we would have seen KAMALA HARRIS come through that door, still comely, still courtly, still stately, still statuesque. We would have seen her walk down. We would have seen her go up to the podium at the dais, and we would have seen her, if this legislation had passed, certify the election of KAMALA HARRIS for President—as President, to be more appropriate, if the legislation had passed.

There are two reasons: Two Democratic Senators refused to do what more than 50 Republicans did when they saw the opportunity.

I will close with this. Do not assume that those Republicans will now do what they have done in the past and oppose moving to 51 votes as they did when there was a Democratic issue on the table. I prognosticate here and now that they will move to use 51 votes if their agenda is stalled, and they will think nothing of it. They will do it with alacrity. They will pass their agenda.

Mr. Speaker, I guarantee you that if they run into a roadblock, they will do it. If that becomes the issue, they are going to do it. When they do it, I am going to come back to this podium, and I am going to say I told you so because we have suffered long enough from our history of using the filibuster to prevent progress, especially among the minorities in this country.

I am not giving them a license to do anything. They are going to do what they are going to do. I am just telling the truth. They are going to do it.

They will do it regardless of what anybody on this side of the aisle says.

We have nothing to do with what they do, but I can tell you this: We have suffered because two Senators would not vote to pass legislation that could have made a difference in the lives of the American people as well as in the lives of specific people who have suffered great injustices, great injustices, grave injustices, lives lost.

I believe that the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act would save lives. Voters would receive a better path to getting their votes into the process. More of them would participate.

I am not saying the election was rigged, none of that. What I am saying is that we had legislation that people would have appreciated, and we could have marketed that legislation by simply saying here is what we accomplished that benefits you at a different level.

Yes, we passed the infrastructure bill. It is a great bill. Yes, we passed the CHIPS and Science Act. I am glad we did it. These are the kinds of kitchen-table issues, this is the kitchen-table legislation, that people were talking about, and the lack of seeing this legislation passed dampened the enthusiasm of key aspects of the Democratic base.

Mr. Speaker, I want you to know there are some people who now want to back off of this legislation. They want to try to become Republican lite. That is what I call it. We have to be ourselves. This is what has been important to our base. We have to stay with what has been important to our base.

There is nothing wrong with any one of these issues. Nothing has changed. We still need them. America needs them. America wants them. We just have to pass this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am always grateful to have this opportunity to speak. It means something to me because I don't hate the country. I love this country. That is why I want to improve it with this legislation. It means something to me. I am proud to say that I stand here in this place to speak on behalf of people who cannot speak for themselves, and I pray that one day we will be able to say that we were there to vote, to take maybe hard votes and pass legislation that makes a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I guarantee you, if my colleagues on the other side run into a roadblock, they will do as I said.

Our time will come again. We will have to take advantage of the time.

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

COMMEMORATING ANTHONY PESCETTI

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRANK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commemorate the life of Anthony

Pescetti, of Granite Bay, who passed away unexpectedly in early December.

Anthony Pescetti lived a life of service. He was an elected member of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, serving 7 years, from 1987 to 1994.

Later, he served two terms in the California State Assembly, from 1998 to 2002.

During his time in public service, Assembly Member Pescetti was well-regarded for the level of communication that he brought to the office and was considered fair and easy to approach. He took pride in listening and keeping in touch with his constituents, holding monthly breakfasts for the public in each community of his district.

Assembly Member Pescetti was also an advocate for his district and secured various victories, such as for public safety and recreation, during his tenure.

Assembly Member Pescetti followed his internal compass. He decided not to run for reelection in 2002, and after 4 years of training, he was ordained deacon with the Sacramento Catholic Diocese. He went on to serve at St. Mel Parish, St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, and later at Presentation Parish in Sacramento.

Anthony loved people, and people loved him. He put a tremendous amount of work and effort toward his community to improve their quality of life.

He also enjoyed his family life with his wife, Kathy, and their son and daughter, Anthony and Sarina. The world was a richer place with Anthony Pescetti, and we will sincerely miss him.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF RICK BARTEE

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize retiring Roseville Fire Department Chief Rick Bartee for his years of service in the Roseville area.

Rick Bartee's devoted career of service to the Roseville community and his country has spanned over four decades, including the last 9 years as chief of the Roseville Fire Department.

Chief Bartee's longstanding commitment to public safety goes back to the age of 18 when he first joined the fire service. He built a strong educational foundation, earning his bachelor's of applied science degree, studying public safety and emergency management at Grand Canyon University.

Before embarking on his service to the city of Roseville, Chief Bartee had a decorated career in several capacities, including his over three decades of service for the Phoenix Fire Department.

Over the course of his tenure, Chief Bartee conducted the duties of engineer, captain, battalion chief, shift commander, managing the Homeland Defense Bureau, deputy chief, and many others.

Chief Bartee's dedication to public safety also went beyond his department and region. Throughout his time in the fire service, he also served on FEMA's urban search and rescue team.

Chief Bartee was onsite at some of the most destructive disasters our country has seen, providing much-needed response and relief. He sifted through the rubble at Ground Zero after 9/11, responded to the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster, aided along the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, and responded to many other catastrophes during his service to the task force. He has demonstrated selflessness in his deployments, locating and extricating disaster victims.

Chief Bartee's experience and scope of duties over his accomplished career, in conjunction with his devotion to service, enabled him to be an exemplary leader as chief of the Roseville Fire Department.

□ 1515

Over the last 9 years, Chief Bartee has been steadfast in his leadership in overseeing 130 firefighters in the department.

During his tenure as fire chief, Rick also performed the duties of Incident Support Team Leader of the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force. Chief Bartee's expertise in specialized training and disaster relief has truly brought invaluable knowledge and experience to the region.

Chief Bartee's lifetime dedication to service and public safety will leave a longstanding legacy, as his selfless leadership will benefit the Roseville area for many, many years to come.

The unwavering commitment to the public and leadership by example of people like Chief Rick Bartee ensures the Roseville area will remain a wonderful and safe place to live.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, it is a great honor and privilege to recognize Roseville Fire Chief Rick Bartee for his career in public service. I join the Roseville community in wishing him the very best in retirement.

OPTIMISM FOR CALIFORNIA

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, near the beginning of last year, I rose on the floor of this House to say a few words about my home State of California and how it was on potentially a path back to sanity, and how that opportunity lay ahead of us.

The reason for that optimism was that there were two potential policy changes then being considered that could set our State on an entirely new course when it comes to the key issues of public safety and homelessness.

California voters were about to consider Proposition 36, an initiative to make crime illegal again in California by largely reversing the disastrous proposition known as Prop 47.

Then there was a case before the United States Supreme Court, which I wrote an amicus brief for, called the Grants Pass case that would potentially liberate our communities from a Ninth Circuit decision that made it virtually impossible for them to clear out homeless encampments.

These two opportunities together presented a path back to law and order,

sanity and livability in California, especially in our major cities. Of course, we were victorious on both counts.

With respect to Prop 36, despite the Governor, the supermajority doing everything they possibly could to stop it from passing, California voters gave it a smashing victory, almost 70 percent of the vote, passing it in each and every one of California's 58 counties.

The U.S. Supreme Court in the Grants Pass case overturned the Ninth Circuit's existing Boise decision and said that our communities once again have the ability to regulate encampments and to stop homeless from camping in our parks, on our sidewalks, around schools, and in our public spaces.

I am very pleased at this point to be able to say that the prediction as to the potentially transformative nature of these changes that I made back then is turning out to be true. I want to cite just a few examples today of how the passage of Prop 36 and the decision in Grants Pass are already serving to turn California around.

Here are just a few recent headlines. From KRON San Francisco: Fremont police credit Prop 36 for nine shoplifting arrests.

CBS San Francisco: Petaluma theft suspects arrested, one with prior convictions subject to Prop 36 charges.

KTLA-TV in Los Angeles: Man charged with drug possession now facing consequences of recently passed Prop 36.

From the San Francisco Examiner: Shoplifter at Brawley Walmart faces jail because Prop 36 passed.

KTLA-TV in Los Angeles: Southern California woman facing enhanced charges with Prop 36 now in effect.

Victorville Daily Press: San Bernardino County theft suspects face potential increased penalties under Prop 36.

KXTV Sacramento: Folsom police arrest 30 people in retail theft sting, including two with possible Prop 36.

KRON, San Francisco: San Francisco DA files charges in city's first Prop 36 case.

KXTV Sacramento: Crackdown on retail theft continues after passage of Prop 36.

KCRA Sacramento: Yuba City police say man caught stealing packages will face felony charges, citing Prop 36.

The list goes on and on. One sting operation resulted in 110 arrests of people who will now finally face consequences because crime is once again illegal in California. Keep in mind, the law has only been in effect now for a few weeks.

There was even an example where there was dash cam footage of a suspect who had been arrested and then was surprised to learn that stealing was once again a felony in California and expressed dismay about these new laws.

Let this serve as a public service announcement to potential thieves in California that crime is illegal once again in our State, and there will be consequences for criminal activity.

On top of that, in the wake of the Grants Pass decision on homelessness, we have seen a number of communities actually start to clean up encampments and to reclaim their public spaces.

For example, in Stockton, homeless under an overpass were given 72 hours' notice of a clearing and were notified they would be arrested if they refused to leave.

In San Francisco, multiple clearings are now occurring every day. Much of the debris being removed, by the way, is either drugs or human waste.

In San Jose, around 100 people were removed from the airport.

In Santa Ana, homeless were cleared from private railroads, and five were arrested. It turns out the arrestees had prior convictions for drugs and murder.

In L.A., 50 to 60 people were removed from a beach and healthcare workers arrived with police to assist with any medical issues the homeless were having.

The benefits of this are twofold. Number one, it is restoring a sense of order to our public spaces so that people feel safe going there again, so they don't serve to spawn further criminal activity; and, number two, it is giving us an opportunity to get homeless individuals into shelters, get a roof over their heads, and get them the help that they need.

With these two developments, with crime now being illegal again in California and with our communities reclaiming our public spaces, I am more optimistic about our State's future than I have been in a very long time. I can tell that the people of California are truly ready to move our State in a new direction.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE SPECIAL SESSION

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, as we speak, the California legislature has gavelled in a special emergency session of its legislature. You might say, well, of course they have, L.A. is burning to the ground right now.

However, it turns out that is not actually what this special session is about. No, no. The legislature has gavelled into a special session called by Gavin Newsom to provide millions of dollars in funding for filing lawsuits against the incoming Trump administration. That is what their priority is at this very moment.

Mr. Speaker, there could not be a starker illustration of the abject political failure that has gotten our State to this point and that has served to bring about the horrifying scenes that the whole country is seeing on their television sets right now and that folks in Los Angeles are suffering through.

I want to go over a few of the failures that have gotten us to this point, but I do want to say first that my prayers are with the people in L.A., the victims of this horrifying apocalyptic set of fires, with over 100,000 people under evacuation orders, with at least five—sadly, probably more—people who have

lost their lives and their families, and with our firefighters and first responders who are working around the clock doing everything they possibly can to get this blaze under control.

I am truly grateful for all of the communities in California and across the entire country that have come together to try to help the L.A. area in this hour of dire need. It is appreciated beyond measure, and I thank them.

After we do manage to get the fire under control, there are going to be a lot of questions that need answering. Indeed, even though we don't know the specific cause of each fire, we can already identify the failures that we know have contributed to these conflagrations, these catastrophic events that have hit our communities time and time again.

Our politicians have obsessed over things like banning lawnmowers, banning leaf blowers, all the while neglecting our forests and leaving our communities vulnerable. In fact, when it comes to the forests, it is worse than neglect. The State and, frankly, the Federal Government have put up unnecessary hurdles to doing proper forest management, to clearing vegetation, to doing prescribed burns, which has turned many of our forests and areas adjoining residential areas in many cases into tinderboxes and caused fires that have in many cases become truly catastrophic, community-destroying events, and we have seen it happen, sadly, time and time again.

The perversity of it all is that these restrictions on being able to manage our forests—which have decimated the timber industry, by the way—are imposed in the name of the environment, but nothing could be worse for the environment than a catastrophic wildfire.

Indeed, when you look at all of the emissions that are saved by every single emissions reduction program that California has, all of that gets wiped out many times over when you have a catastrophic wildfire, so there simply could not be a more backwards policy.

In fact, last year, in the fall, a decision was made to halt prescribed burns. Now, we don't yet know if that would have made a difference here, but we do know that the lack of doing prescribed burns in a systematic, efficient, and timely way has contributed to this problem.

To make matters worse, Governor Newsom, when he came into office, started claiming that he was doing forest management, but he wasn't telling the truth. An investigation by Capital Public Radio, the local NPR affiliate, found that Newsom had exaggerated the amount of forest management work that had been done, the number of acres treated, he had exaggerated that number by a staggering 690 percent.

Our political leaders in California have allowed millions of acres to become overgrown and thereby left our communities in a vulnerable condition.

Not only that their mismanagement of our water supply has, among other things, diminished our capacity to respond to wildfires.

First of all, it has been decades since California has built significant new water storage, not since the State water project. Secondly, even the water that we do have, when it comes down, much of it gets diverted intentionally into the ocean, again, supposedly for environmental reasons.

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I can tell you that in 2023, when we had record storms in California, I visited the site of the Folsom Dam, and you had water cascading out of the dam, 10,000 cubic feet per second, almost all of it going eventually into the ocean.

At that time, by the way, we had a flood emergency declared, of course. Yet, somehow we were also still under a drought emergency. Californians were told, you are not allowed to water your lawn. The legislature was passing draconian restrictions on indoor water use to 25, 30 gallons a day.

Businesses were banned from having lawns in front of their property. In some parts of the State, you had to have a low-flow device for your shower head, and then they would punish you if you used too much water when you took a shower, if you didn't take a 5-minute shower.

All the while, we are sending staggering amounts of water into the ocean, and we are failing to build the storage that would actually catch the water and preserve it for when we need it.

Another example, relevant to the situation in L.A., the California Coastal Commission actually rejected the building of a desalination plant just a couple of years ago.

California, over the course of many years, has, in a political way, chosen to allow its forests to become overgrown and to impose artificial scarcity on its water supply.

At the same time, our State, and many of our municipalities, such as Los Angeles, have had completely backward priorities and have demonstrated a total failure of just basic competence when it comes to government performance and the provision of services.

That was highlighted very clearly in this case. When you had the Los Angeles Fire Department telling the city, do not deprive us of our funding. Yet, the city decided to do it anyway. The fire department said that the reduction in funding would severely limit the department's capacity to prepare for, train for, and respond to large-scale emergencies.

As the city council, the mayor, were deciding not to fully fund the fire department, they had plenty of time for things like passing a resolution reaffirming Los Angeles as a sanctuary city. It was already a sanctuary city. It is already a sanctuary State, but they

decided that was their priority, not to prepare for the risk of wildfire, not to fully fund the fire department, but to pass another resolution making itself a sanctuary city, yet again.

We will be learning more, I expect, about how it possibly could be that we have fire hydrants that are not working, that water isn't coming out of them, and how we didn't have the necessary personnel on hand despite the high wind conditions. It serves to underline on the one hand the misguided priorities, and on the other, the lack of basic competence.

Additionally, Los Angeles and California, more generally, have continued to lead the Nation in homelessness. California has roughly half the unsheltered homeless in the United States. There is a whole host of reasons that this is not a good thing, but one of them is that encampments tend to lead to a lot of fires.

In fact, in just one year, in 2023 alone, there were almost 14,000 fires related to homelessness. Again, we don't yet know exactly what caused the set of fires that are still ongoing, but we do know that this city has been as bad as any in terms of letting homelessness proliferate, allowing encampments to go unchecked, and, thereby, creating more dangerous conditions for its residents because of the risk of fire.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I will point out that California has an insurance crisis that has been growing and growing and growing, year after year after year, and our State's political leaders have simply allowed it to happen.

They have done not nearly enough to mitigate the risk of fire that is the underlying cause of the increased rates. They have done essentially nothing until recently to stabilize the situation, to stabilize the markets. As a result, you have insurers that have now pulled out of the State entirely, and millions of people are losing coverage.

In my district, we have whole communities where everyone has lost coverage, and they are kicked to the California FAIR Plan, forced to pay three times as much, four times as much, five times as much as they were paying before. The FAIR Plan is now on the verge of collapse, accounting for the absolutely catastrophic losses that we are seeing in Los Angeles.

Mr. Speaker, what is happening and is still ongoing, sadly, in Los Angeles is a truly unimaginable tragedy in terms of the images that we are seeing, in terms of the dislocation that it is causing. I expect that we will learn that, at least to an extent, it was an avoidable one.

This should serve as a major wake-up call that our State needs to start doing things differently, that we need to get back to basics. We need to get back to basics in California: Build our roads; manage our forests; store our water; maintain our grid; fund our police and our fire departments; do the things government is supposed to do, do them well, and do nothing else.

If we can get back to basics as a State, then we can stop catastrophes like this from happening in the future. Perhaps someday, in the not too distant future, we can start leading the Nation in the right ways again.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, January 13, 2025, at noon for morning-hour debate.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. YAKYM:

H.R. 241. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for access standards with respect to the provision by the Department of Veterans Affairs of hospital care, medical services, or extended care services that are applicable to certain veterans with mental disorders; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 242. A bill to require annual surveys of Federal employee managers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 243. A bill to prohibit United States recognition of Bidzina Ivanishvili or any Government of Georgia that is led by Bidzina Ivanishvili, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 244. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide eligibility for TRICARE Select to veterans with service-connected disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. FOXX (for herself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 245. A bill to require any applicant for a Federal grant to submit a certification that such applicant is not in violation of section 274(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself and Mr. CASTEN):

H.R. 246. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation on the amount individuals can deduct for certain State and local taxes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms.

PETTERSEN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. PANNETTA, Mr. HOYER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BEYER, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mr. AMO):

H.R. 247. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand eligibility for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself and Mr. VAN DREW):

H.R. 248. A bill to require Amtrak to install baby changing tables in bathrooms on passenger rail cars; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Ms. POU, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. KEAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. SHERRILL, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 249. A bill to redesignate certain facilities at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in honor of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. TITUS, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEE of Florida, and Mrs. BICE):

H.R. 250. A bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the Capitol; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. CALVERT (for himself and Mr. MCCLINTOCK):

H.R. 251. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to make mandatory and permanent requirements relating to use of an electronic employment eligibility verification system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 252. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to prohibit certain contracts for port operations and management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. MILLS, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY):

H.R. 253. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to restrict trading and ownership of certain financial instruments by Members of Congress and their spouses and dependents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 254. A bill to prohibit the Director of the National Science Foundation from awarding grants and other forms of assistance to Chinese communist military companies and their affiliates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 255. A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Lubbock, Texas, as the "General Bernie Mittermeyer VA Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. BICE (for herself, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MANN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. DONALDS):

H.R. 256. A bill to prohibit the sale of petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to certain entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. BICE:

H.R. 257. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit the Securities and Exchange Commission from requiring an issuer to make climate-related disclosures that are not material to investors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. BICE:

H.R. 258. A bill to cancel certain proposed changes to loan level price adjustments by the Federal National Mortgage Association and credit fees charged by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BIGGS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. HARRIS of Maryland):

H.R. 259. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to prohibit certain advertising with respect to the Immigration Detention Ombudsman, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BURCHETT (for himself, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Ms. MACE, Mr. BARRETT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. MILLS, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. NORMAN):

H.R. 260. A bill to require a strategy to oppose financial or material support by foreign countries and nongovernmental organizations to the Taliban, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. FRY, and Mr. PFLUGER):

H.R. 261. A bill to amend the National Marine Sanctuaries Act to prohibit requiring an authorization for the installation, continued presence, operation, maintenance, repair, or recovery of undersea fiber optic cables in a national marine sanctuary if such activities have previously been authorized by a Federal or State agency; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 262. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for certain casualty losses of uncut timber; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CISCOMANI (for himself, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. LAWLER, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS):

H.R. 263. A bill to prohibit the intentional hindering of immigration, border, and customs controls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 264. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require Amtrak to make traditional dining and an alternative, more affordable food and beverage service available to passengers on overnight routes of Am-

trak, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 265. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require Amtrak to submit to Congress an annual report with respect to the implementation of certain recommendations of the Amtrak Food and Beverage Working Group for improving the food and beverage service of Amtrak, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 266. A bill to modify the Federal TRIO programs; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 267. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for hospital and insurer price transparency; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART (for himself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 268. A bill to increase the maximum reward amount for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Nicolás Maduro Moros to \$100,000,000, which shall be paid out by the Federal Government from all assets being withheld from Nicolás Maduro Moros, officials of the Maduro regime and their co-conspirators; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DUNN of Florida (for himself, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 269. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Jens Stoltenberg, in recognition of his contributions to the security, unity, and defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DUNN of Florida:

H.R. 270. A bill to authorize the waiver of costs of activities relating to evacuation of United States citizens when their lives are endangered by war or acts of terrorism; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. FISCHBACH (for herself, Mrs. HOUGHIN, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. EZELL, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MORAN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. BOST, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. MANN, Mrs. BICE, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. GUEST, Mr. ONDER, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. LATTA):

H.R. 271. A bill to provide for a moratorium on Federal funding to Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. FISCHBACH (for herself, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. EZELL, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. KELLY of

Pennsylvania, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. BOST, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MANN, Mr. TAYLOR, Mrs. BICE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. GUEST, Mr. ONDER, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. LATTA):

H.R. 272. A bill to prohibit Federal funding to entities that do not certify the entities will not perform, or provide any funding to any other entity that performs, an abortion; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GILL of Texas (for himself, Mr. MACE, Mr. OGLES, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. WIED, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. CRANE, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. SELF, Mr. HUDSON, Mrs. HOUCIN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MILLS, Mr. PALMER, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. RULLI, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. DOWNING, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. PERRY, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. FRY, Mr. BABIN, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. BALDSON, Mr. HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BARRETT, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. BACON, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mr. MORAN, Mr. HUNT, Mr. GUEST, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Ms. FOXX, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BOST, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. ESTES, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. CLYDE, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mr. McDOWELL):

H.R. 273. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to continue to implement the Migrant Protection Protocols, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. CRANE, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. FISCHBACH, and Mr. BRECHEEN):

H.R. 274. A bill to provide for the sunset of rules upheld based on Chevron deference; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia (for herself, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. CRANE, Mr. GUEST, and Mr. BRECHEEN):

H.R. 275. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to publish on a monthly basis the number of special interest aliens encountered attempting to unlawfully enter the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia (for herself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr.

OGLES, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. BABIN, Mr. RULLI, and Mr. NEHLS):

H.R. 276. A bill to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia (for herself and Mr. MASSIE):

H.R. 277. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide protections for non-violent political protesters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 278. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to streamline siting processes for telecommunications service facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 279. A bill to direct the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for Fairlawn, Virginia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. HAGEMAN (for herself, Mr. MEUSER, and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia):

H.R. 280. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take certain actions with respect to certain qualified coal applications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. HAGEMAN (for herself, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. DOWNING):

H.R. 281. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to reissue a final rule relating to removing the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem population of grizzly bears from the Federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. SELF, Mr. FALLON, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. LUTTRELL, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. NEHLS, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CARTER of Texas, and Mr. BABIN):

H.R. 282. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 107 North Hoyne Avenue in Fritch, Texas, as the "Chief Zeb Smith Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. RULLI, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. LAWLER, Mrs. HOUCIN, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mr. BABIN, and Ms. TENNEY):

H.R. 283. A bill to authorize the President to enter into negotiations for the reacquisition of the Panama Canal from the Republic of Panama; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr.

KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. JAMES, Mr. STEIL, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BARRETT, and Ms. BROWN):

H.R. 284. A bill to reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. CISCOMANI, and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 285. A bill to establish Joint Operations Centers along the southern border of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KUSTOFF (for himself, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. EZELL, and Ms. LEE of Florida):

H.R. 286. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to penalize false communications to cause an emergency response, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LALOTA:

H.R. 287. A bill to amend chapter 4 of title 39, United States Code, to require the Postal Service to use a mobile retail unit to provide retail postal services to an area when the post office for such area is temporarily unable to provide such services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LALOTA (for himself and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 288. A bill to reauthorize Long Island Sound programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY (for himself and Ms. BALINT):

H.R. 289. A bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 with respect to the Acer access and development program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY (for himself and Ms. PINGREE):

H.R. 290. A bill to reauthorize the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program of the Department of Agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY (for himself and Ms. TOKUDA):

H.R. 291. A bill to amend the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program of the Department of Agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY:

H.R. 292. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to carry out research and development regarding a policy to insure table, wine, and juice grapes against losses due to a freeze event, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY (for himself and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 293. A bill to expand the seniors farmers' market program to include maple syrup; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY (for himself, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 294. A bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 with respect to the dairy margin coverage program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY (for himself, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. FINSTAD, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. COSTA, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 295. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 with respect to mandatory reporting of dairy products processing costs; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. LAWLER (for himself, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. ELLZEY, and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.R. 296. A bill to address the plea agreements for certain individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 297. A bill to prohibit the availability of Federal funds to institutions of higher education that conduct painful biomedical research on dogs and cats; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS (for herself, Ms. TITUS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 298. A bill to eliminate certain limitations and exclusions regarding defense articles and requirements regarding security assistance and sales with respect to the Republic of Cyprus; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 299. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make available to the public on the websites of their respective departments certain information relating to individuals processed through U.S. Customs and Border Protection or Department of Health and Human Services facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MALOY:

H.R. 300. A bill to allow States to elect to observe daylight savings time for the duration of the year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MALOY:

H.R. 301. A bill to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to establish a deadline for processing applications related to geothermal leasing; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. MALOY (for herself, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, and Mr. ESTES):

H.R. 302. A bill to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 303. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or combat-related special compensation; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MAST (for himself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, and Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida):

H.R. 304. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 290 NW Peacock Boulevard in Port St. Lucie, Florida, as the "Trooper Zachary Fink Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 305. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program to assist local educational agencies with ensuring that each elementary and secondary school has at least one registered nurse on staff; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MCBRIDE (for herself and Mrs. KIM):

H.R. 306. A bill to amend the Credit Repair Organizations Act to add additional protections against harmful practices within the credit repair organization industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. MCIVER (for herself, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois):

H.R. 307. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of peripheral artery disease screening tests furnished to at-risk beneficiaries under the Medicare and Medicaid programs without the imposition of cost-sharing requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah (for himself and Ms. STRICKLAND):

H.R. 308. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for rental housing for members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEHLS (for himself, Mr. PANNETTA, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. COSTA, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. MACE, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. AMODEI of Nevada, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RYAN, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. BACON, Mr. LALOTA, Mrs. FISCHBACH, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 309. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide funding for the National Law Enforcement Museum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PERRY (for himself, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. ROY):

H.R. 310. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal certain credits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PERRY (for himself, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. BURLISON):

H.R. 311. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the alcohol fuels credit, the biodiesels fuel credit, the sustainable aviation fuel credit, the clean fuel production credit, the alcohol fuel, biodiesel, and alternative fuel mixtures credit, and other related provisions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PERRY (for himself, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. CRANE):

H.R. 312. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal certain credits relating to alternative fuel vehicles; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 313. A bill to repeal the natural gas tax; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. RADEWAGEN:

H.R. 314. A bill to require executive agencies to reduce cost-sharing requirements for certain grants with certain nonprofit organizations 25 percent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. RADEWAGEN:

H.R. 315. A bill to waive certain provisions in the case of an emergency declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 316. A bill to authorize the President to provide disaster assistance to States and Indian Tribes under a major disaster recovery program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CLINE, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. CLYDE, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, and Mr. OGLES):

H.R. 317. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create health freedom accounts available to all individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. CRANE, Mr. PERRY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. MCCORMICK, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. HUNT, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. CLINE, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. SELF, Mr. BABIN, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. OGLES, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. ISSA, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. LUTTRELL, Mr. FALLON, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. BRECHEN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, and Mrs. LUNA):

H.R. 318. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to suspend the entry of aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SIMPSON (for himself and Mr. FULCHER):

H.R. 319. A bill to authorize an additional district judgeship for the district of Idaho; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 320. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the marriage penalty in the income tax rate brackets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 321. A bill to establish a system to expedite gate passes and flight access procedures to allow caregivers, parents, and guardians to accompany minors and passengers needing assistance to their flights; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SUOZZI (for himself and Mr. DUNN of Florida):

H.R. 322. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 relating to de minimis treatment under that Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. GARBARINO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 323. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 Prospect Street in Avon, New York, as the “Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz Memorial Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. TIMMONS:

H.R. 324. A bill to provide for the collection and sharing of information, including tax return information, for purposes of criminal investigations with respect to loans under the Paycheck Protection Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 325. A bill to designate a peak in the State of Nevada as Maude Frazier Mountain, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE (for herself, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. BALDERSON, and Mr. HARRIS of Maryland):

H.R. 326. A bill to require the GAO to conduct a study detailing the total cost of unused construction materials that were obtained for the construction of a border wall along the United States-Mexico border; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE (for herself, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. VALADAO, and Mrs. LUNA):

H.R. 327. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the penalty for fraudulent misrepresentation about the receipt of a military decoration or medal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 328. A bill to immediately halt investment by United States persons in the energy sector of Venezuela until the legitimate results of the July 28, 2024, election are respected; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 329. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the availability of penalty-free distributions to unemployed individuals from retirement plans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WITTMAN (for himself, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 330. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, to conduct a study on existing efforts of hospitals with respect to electronic automated referrals for purposes of organ donation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. LEVIN):

H.J. Res. 13. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States limiting the pardon power of the President; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.J. Res. 14. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the

United States to repeal the sixteenth article of amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MESSMER:

H.J. Res. 15. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Water Heating Equipment”; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MULLIN, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.J. Res. 16. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States extending the right to vote to citizens sixteen years of age or older; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. HOUGHIN:

H. Res. 21. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H. Res. 22. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. PETTERSEN (for herself, Mrs. LUNA, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. PEREZ, Mrs. KIM, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H. Res. 23. A resolution permitting parental remote voting by proxy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia (for herself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. CRANE, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. NEHLS, Mrs. LUNA, and Mr. VAN DREW):

H. Res. 24. A resolution expunging the December 18, 2019, impeachment of President Donald John Trump; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia (for herself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. CRANE, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. NEHLS, Mrs. LUNA, and Mr. VAN DREW):

H. Res. 25. A resolution expunging the January 13, 2021, impeachment of President Donald John Trump; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia (for herself, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mr. HUNT):

H. Res. 26. A resolution deeming certain conduct of members of Antifa as domestic terrorism and designating Antifa as a domestic terrorist organization; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LALOTA (for himself, Mr. GARBARINO, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Mr. LAWLER):

H. Res. 27. A resolution expressing opposition to Central Business District Tolling Program of New York City; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. PEREZ (for herself and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine):

H. Res. 28. A resolution eliminating the restriction that witnesses may appear remotely at proceedings of committees of the House of Representatives only at the discretion of the chair of the committee; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. TOKUDA (for herself, Mr. CASE, and Ms. SÁNCHEZ):

H. Res. 29. A resolution recognizing the 125th anniversary of organized Okinawan immigration to the United States; to the Com-

mittee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. JACK, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. COSTA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. TONKO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. MENG, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. BROWN, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. SOTO, Mr. FIELDS, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. IVEY, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. POCAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. STANTON, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. NADLER, Ms. TITUS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. LIEU, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. WATERS, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. HAYES, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. FIGURES, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. PANNETTA, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Mr. DELUZIO, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. BEYER, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. DELAULO, Mr. CARSON, Ms. POU, Mr. CROW, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. SIMON, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. TOKUDA, and Ms. DELBENE):

H. Res. 30. A resolution honoring the life, achievements, legacy, and public service of former President James Earl “Jimmy” Carter, Jr.; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Mr. YAKYM:

H.R. 241.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 242.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section

8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 243.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 244.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 245.

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

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

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 246.

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

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

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 247.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 248.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 249.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. HOULAHAN:

H.R. 250.

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

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 251.

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

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 and clause 18.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 252.

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

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 and clause 18.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 253.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 254.

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

Article 1 Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 255.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. BICE:

H.R. 256.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mrs. BICE:

H.R. 257.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3 & 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. BICE:

H.R. 258.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3 & 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BIGGS of Arizona:

H.R. 259.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 260.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 261.

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

Congress is granted the authority to introduce and enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 262.

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

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

By Mr. CISCOMANI:

H.R. 263.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 264.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 265.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 266.

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

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

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 267.

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

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

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART:

H.R. 268.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. DUNN of Florida:

H.R. 269.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. DUNN of Florida:

H.R. 270.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. FISCHBACH:

H.R. 271.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. FISCHBACH:

H.R. 272.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GILL of Texas:

H.R. 273.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 274.

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

Article 1, Section 1: All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia:

H.R. 275.

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

Article I, Section 8, United States Constitution

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia:

H.R. 276.

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

Article I, Section 8, United States Constitution

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia:

H.R. 277.

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

Article I, Section 8, United States Constitution

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 278.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 279.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 280.

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

Article I Section 8

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 281.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas:

H.R. 282.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 283.

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

Article II, Section 2

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 284.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 285.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. KUSTOFF:

H.R. 286.

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

Under Article I, Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

By Mr. LALOTA:

H.R. 287.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LALOTA:

H.R. 288.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LANGWORTHY:

H.R. 289.

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

Clause 3 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. LANGWORTHY:

H.R. 290.

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

Clause 3 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. LANGWORTHY:

H.R. 291.

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

Clause 3 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. LANGWORTHY:

H.R. 292.

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

Clause 3 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. LANGWORTHY:

H.R. 293.

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

Clause 3 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. LANGWORTHY:

H.R. 294.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. LANGWORTHY:

H.R. 295.

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

Clause 3 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 296.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 297.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 298.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 299.

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

Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18

By Ms. MALOY:

H.R. 300.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. MALOY:

H.R. 301.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. MALOY:

H.R. 302.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 303.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 304.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 7

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 305.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. McBRIDE:

H.R. 306.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

General Welfare Clause

By Mrs. McIVER:

H.R. 307.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, along with the Necessary and Proper Clause, Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H.R. 308.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. NEHLS:

H.R. 309.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 310.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 311.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 312.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 313.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. RADEWAGEN:

H.R. 314.

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

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

By Mrs. RADEWAGEN:

H.R. 315.

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

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

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 316.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 317.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution—to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 318.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 319.

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

Article 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 9.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 320.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 321.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SUOZZI:

H.R. 322.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 1

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 323.

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

Article I Section 8

By Mr. TIMMONS:

H.R. 324.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 325.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. VAN DUYNE:

H.R. 326.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. VAN DUYNE:

H.R. 327.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 328.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 329.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 330.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. COHEN:

H.J. Res. 13.

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

Article 5

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.J. Res. 14.

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

Article V of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. MESSMER:

H.J. Res. 15.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. MENG:

H.J. Res. 16.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution [page H10170]

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 21: Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. YAKYM, Mrs. BICE, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. LAHOOD, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. DOWNING, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. FOXX, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. MANN, Mr. ONDER, Mr. BACON, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. ROSE, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. LATTA, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. OWENS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. LUTTRELL, Mr. EMMER, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama.

H.R. 22: Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mrs. BICE, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mr. GOODEN, and Mrs. HINSON.

H.R. 23: Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. BARRETT, Mr. JACK, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. BARR, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. GUEST, and Mr. MCGUIRE.

H.R. 24: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, and Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 26: Mrs. BICE, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. BARR.

H.R. 27: Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WALBERG, and Mrs. FISCHBACH.

H.R. 28: Mr. LALOTA, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. ROSE, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, and Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 30: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. WIED, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. ONDER, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. RULLI, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. FINSTAD, Ms. LEE of Florida, and Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.

H.R. 31: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 32: Mrs. BICE, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 33: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 35: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida and Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 38: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. TIFFANY, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. FALLON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. KNOTT, Mr. ONDER, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. RULLI, Mr. DOWNING, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, Mr. CLOUD, and Mr. EDWARDS.

H.R. 45: Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. ROSE, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. HUDSON, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. FALLON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. EZELL, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. OWENS, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. GUEST, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. STRONG, Mr. BACON, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. ISSA, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. FRY.

H.R. 48: Mr. CRANE.

H.R. 51: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 59: Mr. ROY.

H.R. 98: Mr. ROY.

H.R. 128: Mr. NEHLS, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. OGLES, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. BURCHETT, and Mrs. LUNA.

H.R. 134: Mr. VAN ORDEN and Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 135: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida and Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 137: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, and Mr. BEAN of Florida.

H.R. 138: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 139: Mr. MACKENZIE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. STRONG, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 156: Mr. MACKENZIE.

H.R. 162: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 163: Mr. LOUDERMILK and Ms. BOEBERT.

H.R. 174: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 175: Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. GUEST, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 176: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 178: Mr. ZINKE.

H.R. 179: Mr. ZINKE.

H.R. 182: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 196: Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. GARBARINO.

H.R. 205: Mr. GUEST.

H.R. 210: Ms. WATERS, Ms. SALINAS, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mrs. MCIVER.

H.R. 211: Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 212: Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SWALWELL, and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 215: Mr. MANN.

H.R. 219: Ms. SALINAS, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 220: Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. MCIVER, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.

H.R. 221: Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MASSIE, and Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.

H.R. 223: Mr. MOORE of Alabama and Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 227: Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. LAHOOD, and Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 236: Mr. FALLON, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H. Res. 11: Mr. GOSAR.

H. Res. 15: Ms. HAGEMAN.



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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025

No. 5

Senate

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord of life, thank You for the opportunity to honor the life and legacy of the 39th President of the United States.

Lord, Your mercies are new to us every day. Take our Senators by the hand and lead them on the road You desire them to travel. Lord, help our lawmakers to seek Your guidance as they establish their priorities, always remembering their accountability to You. May this accountability motivate them to never deviate from the path of integrity but to seek to ensure that Your will is done on Earth even as it is done in Heaven. May they never forget that You are with them and will guide them.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

LAKEN RILEY ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 5, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 1, S. 5, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President pro tempore.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to speak for 1 minute as in morning business.

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

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, January 9 is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Today, as well as every day, we should give our thanks to the Nation's men and women in blue.

I make this a practice. Whenever I see a police officer, I always try to stop and say two things: I am not for defunding the police, and I am proud to back the blue, or I say it another way: Thank you for maintaining the peace.

As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, you can be sure that I will continue my work to protect and support law enforcement in both Iowa and nationwide. The Judiciary Committee always accomplishes issues supporting police in a bipartisan series of bills, most often in the month of May.

To our law enforcement friends, all Senators say: Thank you for your selfless service. May God bless you, and may God protect you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on November 5, President Trump was elected to be the 47th President of the United States. By Thanksgiving, he had announced all of his Cabinet Secretaries and several other senior roles in his new administration.

All in all, it took President Trump just 18 days to name all of his Cabinet Secretaries, a pace unprecedented in recent history. New administrations typically take a few weeks to name their first nominees, but President Trump has shown he wants to get to work quickly in executing the mandate he has received from the American people, and he deserves to have his team in place in order to help him do that. That is going to require some work from the Senate, and we are ready to get to it.

The Senate will provide each of the President's nominees with a fair process. That process has been unfolding for the past several weeks as Senators have met with many of these nominees in private. Next week, Senate committees plan to begin holding public hearings with several nominees. Senators will have the chance to ask them questions on the record, and the American people will be able to hear directly from the men and women President Trump has chosen for his administration.

Committees have begun noticing hearings with several nominees for national security roles in the Trump administration.

The Armed Services Committee is preparing to hear from Pete Hegseth, the nominee for Secretary of Defense.

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



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The Foreign Relations Committee has announced plans to hear from our colleague Senator RUBIO, who has been nominated for Secretary of State.

The Intelligence Committee has scheduled a confirmation hearing for John Ratcliffe to be CIA Director.

And the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee plans to hold a hearing with Gov. Kristi Noem, nominated for Secretary of Homeland Security.

Other committees have also announced plans for confirmation hearings: the Veterans' Affairs Committee for Doug Collins, nominee for VA Secretary; the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee for Russell Vought, nominated to return as OMB Director; the Energy Committee for Gov. Doug Burgum to be Interior Secretary and Chris Wright to be Energy Secretary; the Judiciary Committee for Pam Bondi, nominated for Attorney General; and the Commerce Committee for Sean Duffy, nominee for Secretary of Transportation.

That is just the start. Our goal is to keep up a steady pace of progress in the coming weeks. In 2009, President Obama had 12 Cabinet Secretaries in place within 15 days of taking office. It took the Trump and Biden administrations roughly three times longer to get the same number confirmed. We need to get back to the Obama standard, and we are going to need Democrats to cooperate in order to do that.

Earlier this week, the Democrat leader said that his caucus's approach to the Trump nominees would be "fair but thorough." I hope it will be fair, but we will be ready to proceed whether or not Democrats choose to cooperate.

President Trump has chosen his team. We have a job to do to ensure that each member of that team gets a fair process here in the U.S. Senate, and that is what we are going to do. I look forward to the committees getting to work.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, our prayers are with the people of Southern California who have been impacted by the wildfires that have spread over the past few days. The images of homes, schools, places of worship burning are terrifying and almost surreal.

I have been briefed on the latest efforts by Federal and State officials to contain these fires. Sadly, there is a lot of work left to do before this crisis is over. Right now, it is vital that our

firefighters and medical workers and first responders have everything they need from the Federal Government to combat the flames and rescue people from danger.

The Senate just passed, fortunately, a sweeping disaster aid package precisely for these kinds of emergencies, but now we must ensure all necessary disaster aid goes out the door as quickly as possible and is given to the people who need it and need it the most.

Finally, the fact that the worst wildfire in Los Angeles's history should happen in the dead of winter is another warning of the dangers of climate change. Extreme weather events will continue to happen regularly and will get worse if we don't tackle the climate crisis head-on.

We pray for the people of Southern California, and we thank all of our brave first responders working without rest to keep people safe.

LAKEN RILEY ACT

Mr. President, on today's vote, this afternoon, the Senate is going to hold its first procedural vote on the Laken Riley Act. I expect that this bill will have enough votes from both parties to proceed. If we get on the bill, Democrats want to have a robust debate where we can offer amendments and improve the bill.

On the first day of the 119th Congress, my good friend the Republican leader, Senator THUNE, said he wants to make the Senate a place "where all members should have a chance to make their voices . . . heard." Well, this bill will be a fine place to start.

We should allow debate and amendments on the bill. This is an important issue. We should have a debate and amendments, and that is why I am voting yes on the motion to proceed.

To remind my colleagues, this is not a vote on the bill itself. This is a motion to proceed, a vote that says we should have a debate and should have amendments.

DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Mr. President, now, on the GOP taxes and our Democratic agenda, each day it is becoming clearer that the new Trump administration will look a lot like the old one: chaos for Republicans, bad news for working Americans. That is what this new Trump administration already looks like, just like they did 4 years ago.

All week long, Republicans have tripped over themselves to try to figure out how they are going to hurt everyday Americans through their agenda. All this talk about "one bill" or "two bills" is irrelevant. That is just Washington-insider machinations.

Americans need to know the real story: Republicans are united on using their new majorities to cut taxes for the ultrawealthy at the expense of working people. It doesn't matter if it is one bill or two bills when they are doing so much to hurt working Americans and only helping those who probably need help the least—the very least, by and large.

All these promises we heard from Republicans about fighting for the working class didn't even make it to Inauguration Day. They are back to trying to cut taxes for the ultrawealthy and megacorporations.

Look, I have no problem against those who are fortunate enough to have a lot of money. God bless them. But they need to pay their fair share. Almost all Americans would agree with that. So it is truly stunning—it is revealing—that Republicans are already spending so much energy trying to figure out the best way to make taxes for the very wealthy even lower.

We are already seeing a glaring contrast between how Republicans use their time in power and what Democrats believe in. A little later this afternoon, Senate Democrats will convene on the Senate steps for our first major press conference, where we will outline our priorities and where they lie in the 119th Congress.

We need to lower costs for working and middle-class people, not reward the ultrarich and America's biggest corporations. If Republicans want to work with us on real policies that lower costs for real working Americans, we are glad to partner with them. But if Republicans try to sell out our children's future with multitrillion-dollar tax cuts that only help those at the very top, we will fiercely, fiercely oppose them.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, now, on nominations, the American people have a right to know if President-elect Trump's Cabinet nominees are going to fight for them. Will they lower people's costs? Will they be loyal to the country and the Constitution? Or will they cater to their wealthy benefactors, like the first Trump administration? Will they try to undo the wellsprings of democracy?

We can answer these questions through a robust nomination process in the Senate. But when Republicans like the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee try to rush nominees before Senators have even received basic information, such as background reports, Americans have to ask: What are Republicans trying to hide when they don't want their nominees to have background checks and don't want to have full information about them?

These nominees will have enormous power. Every American has to go through a background check and is asked questions when they are applying for a job. These jobs are so important. Of course, this should happen here. But so far, some of the Republican chairs of committees are resisting, and that doesn't speak well for the qualifications or the confidence they have in their nominees.

In the last 2 days, the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has noticed hearings on not one but two of President Trump's nominees without minority consent:

Governor Doug Burgum to be Secretary of the Interior and Chris Wright to be the Secretary of Energy. These two positions—Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Energy—will be tasked with managing our natural resources and our clean energy future. They will be responsible for protecting the good-paying, clean energy jobs created under President Biden. And I would remind my Republican colleagues: Those jobs are in red States as much as they are in blue States.

The American people deserve to know if these Cabinet nominees will protect good-paying, clean energy jobs; or will they kill these jobs and put a lot of people out of work for some ideological thing they are chasing?

Yet Senate Democrats on the committee have yet to receive basic information about either of these nominees' backgrounds.

Republicans choosing to rush nominees is quickly becoming a pattern. It is hard not to wonder: What are the Republicans trying to hide about these nominees from the American people? What are they trying to hide? What are they afraid of?

TRIBUTE TO MATT FUENTES

Now, finally, I want to end on a more personal but also a bittersweet note.

Mr. President, I have had great staff through all my years in the Senate and in the House. I owe everything to them. They work so damn hard. They are so dedicated, and they are so smart and so creative and so caring. So to say that this is one of the best I have ever had is really high tribute. But Matt Fuentes, my top health policy adviser for 8 years, is one of the very, very, very best I have ever, ever, ever had—8 years, amazing.

Matt, I want to thank you for your amazing work. I am so proud of what you have accomplished for us, for New York, and for the country.

As I said before, I have the best staff in the world, and Matt was no exception. He joined my team and immediately got to work helping defend the ACA when Republicans tried to repeal it in 2017. He was instrumental in passing COVID relief, which saved thousands of lives. He led insulin reform policy. Now, people are getting insulin, and Medicare recipients, for \$35. I don't think it would have happened without this guy sitting right here next to me. He figured out the ways to get it done. It is not easy.

And he helped us lower drug prices for millions of other Americans, because, as you know, as of January 1, there is a cap on how much any senior citizen can pay for all the drugs they use, as well as negotiations that would have been now allowed so that Medicare can negotiate with the drug companies, and 10 of the most popular drug prices are going way down.

Anyone who has worked with Matt would agree on one thing: He possesses a rare gift. It is true. It is amazing. He can translate the most complex policy into clear and direct essentials, while

grasping the core, difficult political issues at play.

I can recall many times—probably more than either of us would want to admit—when I called Matt at 7 in the morning, at midnight: Matt, what about this? What about that?

He never got mad. He was always very factual and matter of fact and would answer and solve the problem.

So he is amazing. And despite all the stressful situations that the job put him in, Matt always radiated calmness and confidence. He never wavered under pressure. In fact, that is when he was at his best. When everyone else in the room was trying to prove they were right and others were wrong, he had the special ability to bring people together on both sides of the aisle. So much of what we did was bipartisan, and that is the reason right here. It was a sight to behold to watch Matt.

Again, I just have to say, with all the pressure and everything going on and having a new family—a new young family, a beautiful child; now there are two—he stayed cool as a cucumber. I don't know if they use that expression these days. My mother uses that one. It is probably out of date.

Have you heard it, Mr. President, from your mother, too—"cool as a cucumber"?

Matt was cool as a cucumber throughout all of it—thoughtful, kind, generous. He knows when to be serious but doesn't take himself seriously. He is always seeking to help but is never afraid to hold strong for what he believes is right.

You know, my wish for every Senator, regardless of our ideology, is that you have a Matt Fuentes—sometime, someplace—on your staff, working on some important issue.

I do want to say one thing. I hate seeing Matt leave. He is one of the best, as I said, I have ever had, but we have a new successor to Matt, who is his deputy, who I know will fill his large shoes.

So thank you very much.

Matt, from the bottom of my heart, thank you, thank you, thank you, not just for me but for everything you have done for America and Americans. Your legacy, no matter what else you do in life, is there. There are literally going to be huge numbers of people—tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, maybe millions—who are alive, who are healthier because of you. What an amazing legacy.

God bless you, Matt. Good luck. Good luck to your nice wife, to your great little kids. I know you will do other great things, but forever, forever, forever, you will be part of the Schumer family and one of the best members of it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

LAKEN RILEY ACT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, something unexpected is happening in the early days of this new Congress,

right here in the Senate, and that is we are seeing some bipartisanship. Republicans and a number of Democrats have now agreed that violent criminals who have entered our country illegally and are a threat to the safety and the security of the American people shouldn't be here and we need to do something about it.

A headline in POLITICO this week tells the story. The headline reads "Democrats make a right turn on immigration." This is an encouraging start to our new Senate year, and now it is time for the Democrats to prove that they really do want to work with us.

The Senate is going to vote today on this bipartisan Laken Riley Act. Now, just to remind those who are unfamiliar with the situation, Laken Riley was a young woman. She was a student at Augusta University in Athens, GA. She was studying to be a nurse. Tomorrow would have been her 23rd birthday. She was murdered by an illegal immigrant. All she was doing was out taking a jog. That illegal immigrant was in America because of Joe Biden and the Democrats' open border policies.

The Laken Riley Act has been sponsored and is now cosponsored by every Republican in the Senate, and there are also several Democrats who have recently signed on to this legislation and now support it. I was happy to hear the Democratic leader saying that he was going to vote to get on the bill as well.

The Laken Riley Act presents the Senate a simple choice: Are we willing to allow illegal immigrants to roam free in our country or do we want to save American lives? Protecting Americans from the dangers of a broken border makes sense to, I believe, most, if not all, of our citizens.

Earlier this week, Senator JOHN FETTERMAN of Pennsylvania was asked about the Laken Riley Act. This is what he said. He said: If you are here illegally and you are committing crimes, I don't know why anybody thinks that that is controversial.

Well, not too long ago, his party certainly thought this point of view was controversial. That is what we saw happen here in the Senate. Last Congress, Republicans tried to bring up the Laken Riley Act. The Democrats blocked us. They wouldn't even let us debate it.

So I am happy to hear that Democrats are now open to debating this important bill. It is nice to see that the results of the election in November have changed the thinking of some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

Debating the Laken Riley Act isn't enough; the Senate must go on to pass it. The House has already passed this exact version of the Laken Riley Act this past week, and that vote was overwhelmingly bipartisan. The Senate now has an opportunity to make a real difference—a difference to protect American citizens from illegal-immigrant criminals.

There are some Democratic Senators who say that they support the Laken Riley Act but they want to weaken it. Well, to be clear, Senate Republicans are not weakening this lifesaving legislation. We will not allow that to happen. We must ensure that what happened to Laken Riley does not ever happen again.

When the time comes to vote on the Laken Riley Act, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote yes. If Democrats join us, the Laken Riley Act will actually become the law of the land, but more importantly than that, it will meet an urgent need of the American people. That is what we are really trying to do here—solve a problem, come up with a solution.

This isn't comprehensive immigration reform. To be very clear, there is much more that needs to be done to fix our broken open border. Today, I reintroduced a bill called the Build the Wall Act. That will certainly go a long way. We know that border walls work. My proposal finishes the wall, and it pays for it with unspent COVID money—money that is available to be used and should be used for that productive purpose.

We have already built more than 450 miles of border wall between the United States and Mexico. We know that it worked. Under President Trump, illegal crossings were at a record low. But now, after more than 10 million illegal immigrants have poured into our country during the last 4 years, we need to finish the wall. The need to do it is greater today than it has ever been before. The moment has come for safety and for security and, now, for serious action.

Joe Biden and the Democrats broke the border, opened the border, allowed and actually invited into this country people who are part of criminal cartels, drug dealers, terror suspects. This action turned every State, including my home State of Wyoming, into a border State.

It is time for even more Democrats to join Republicans today in securing our border, saving our lives, and passing this important piece of legislation that is coming before us today.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LAKEN RILEY ACT

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, on January 10, 2002, Laken Riley was born into this world to her loving family. Tomorrow would have been her 23rd birthday. She should be celebrating with her family, blowing out candles on her birthday cake, and filling her loved one's lives with the joy she spread so effortlessly.

But instead of celebrating another year around the Sun with friends and family, instead of figuring out what her next steps in life would be—which had limitless potential—instead of achieving her dreams of becoming a nurse, tomorrow, we will mark the first day she isn't here with us on this side of Heaven.

Nobody knew Laken and the light she shined on all those around her like her family, so I would like to read a statement from Allyson and John Phillips, Laken's mother and stepfather:

It's impossible to fully describe what was taken from Laken and from our family on February 22, 2024. Laken's life was abundantly and exceptionally full of promise. She was a beautiful, shining beacon in the life of everyone who knew her. Not only did the people who knew and loved her lose a beautiful soul, but so did our world.

Laken shared her love for Jesus with everyone she encountered. Laken's passion for sharing her faith through acts of kindness were felt by everyone she met. Laken was selfless, hard-working, and made those around her feel special. Laken did not just talk about her faith, she led by example.

A truly special person.

Laken Riley was, as we can hear in Allyson and John's heartfelt words, just incredible.

There was no reason—no reason at all—that she should no longer be with us. Her killer, who came to this country illegally, should have never been in the United States. And once he had been arrested for multiple crimes before committing this heinous, unimaginable crime, he should have been detained by ICE immediately. Had that been the case, Laken's family and Laken herself would have faced a very different reality. They would be celebrating a birthday, not approaching the 1-year anniversary of her murder.

The Laken Riley Act will help prevent other families from experiencing this unimaginable heartache.

I was proud to introduce this bill in the Senate with Senator TED BUDD of North Carolina, with his support and leadership, along with Majority Leader JOHN THUNE and the entire Senate Republican conference, along with support which came from across the aisle from Senators JOHN FETTERMAN and RUBEN GALLEGOS.

I am grateful for the tremendous leadership of Georgia Congressman MIKE COLLINS, who originally introduced and led this piece of legislation through bipartisan passage in the House—not once but twice—literally lapping the Senate. When you look at Representative COLLINS, that is a true servant leader. He saw an issue that occurred right there with his constituency. His heart broke alongside theirs. And then he didn't just talk about it; he did something about it. Representative MIKE COLLINS put pen to paper. He said: We are going to create a solution. We are going to make sure that no family has to experience the heartbreak that Laken's family is enduring. That type of leadership is what every Member of this body should strive for.

As is already the case under current law for various types of criminal activities, our bill would require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain illegal aliens who commit theft-related offenses and would mandate that these illegal aliens are detained until their removal from the United States before they get the opportunity to commit further, graver crimes.

I want to be very clear. The only individuals that would be subject to this bill are criminal illegal aliens. These individuals crossed our border illegally, and then they committed a crime after getting here. That is who we are talking about.

Our bill would also ensure that States have standing to bring civil action against Federal officials who refuse to enforce mandatory detention and enforcement provisions of our current immigration laws, as well as statutory limitations on grants of immigration parole, or officials who violate those laws.

I know and my colleagues know that our bill is as necessary as it is straightforward. The House, as I mentioned, has lapped us in the Senate by passing this twice, under the leadership of Representative COLLINS. Unfortunately, when we tried to move it here, Democrats repeatedly blocked our attempt. Senate Democrats actually didn't even give this a committee hearing or a markup. Let's learn from those mistakes.

To my Democratic colleagues, I implore you to see reason, to see Laken's face, and to think about the potential consequences if you choose to block this again.

I once again want to read the words of Laken's mother and stepfather, Allyson and John Phillips:

The Laken Riley Act has our full support because it would help save innocent lives and prevent more families from going through the kind of heartbreak we've experienced. Laken would have been 23 on January 10th. There is no greater gift that could be given to her and our country than to continue her legacy by saving lives through this bill. Every single member of Congress should be able to get behind this purely commonsense bill that will make our country and communities safer.

So to my colleagues, please listen to Allyson and John. Understand their pain. Hear their pleas for action. They need us to pass the Laken Riley Act. Every American family needs us to pass the Laken Riley Act. And they deserve it.

Today, on the eve of what should have been Laken Riley's 23rd birthday, let's honor her legacy and advance a bipartisan bill that will help us save American lives.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am here to support the Laken Riley Act. This legislation comes within the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee, which committee I will chair this Congress.

We all know that the result of the last election was a mandate for the President to carry out his agenda. In that agenda was the deportation of people who illegally enter our country. Everybody knows you can't come to the United States without our permission. One of those things that President Trump prioritized was his pledge to detain and deport criminals who are in this country illegally.

Laken was a young woman who lost her life at the hands of a violent, illegal immigrant with a criminal history. Laken's killer robbed a business before he robbed Laken of her life. He should have either been in prison or deported immediately after committing his first crime of robbery. This bill would ensure that thieves are detained by our immigration authorities.

Sadly, we know from experience that some administrations willfully refuse to enforce our immigration laws. This bill protects our citizens against any future administrations that want to let criminals stay in the United States illegally. It allows States to sue the Federal Government if and when it refuses to detain an illegal immigrant who has harmed a person in that State.

Over the past 4 years, a countless number of criminals have crossed our borders and hurt Americans. No American should be harmed by those who shouldn't be here in the first place. The Laken Riley Act will empower the President and his administration to remove the dangerous criminals that currently roam our streets and threaten our citizens' safety.

I would like to thank my colleague Senator BRITT for taking the lead on the Laken Riley Act. Thanks to her leadership, we have supporters and cosponsors from both sides of the aisle backing this legislation. I urge my colleagues to move to and support this bill.

The primary role of the Federal Government is to protect its citizens. We owe it to Laken Riley and others who have fallen victim to crimes by illegal migrants to ensure that the Federal Government never fails to protect other Americans like it failed to protect them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that we begin the rollcall vote immediately, the 3 o'clock rollcall.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 1, S. 5, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security

to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Katie Britt, Markwayne Mullin, Bernie Moreno, Eric Schmitt, Jim Banks, John Curtis, Pete Ricketts, Cynthia M. Lummis, Rick Scott of Florida, John Cornyn, Mike Rounds, Tom Cotton, Shelley Moore Capito, Roger Marshall, Dave McCormick, Tommy Tuberville.

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 Calendar No. 1, S. 5, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) are necessarily absent.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) would have voted "yea."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 84, nays 9, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 1 Leg.]

YEAS—84

Alsobrooks	Fischer	Paul
Baldwin	Gallego	Peters
Banks	Gillibrand	Reed
Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Bennet	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hagerty	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hawley	Rounds
Blunt Rochester	Heinrich	Rubio
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Schmitt
Britt	Hoeven	Schumer
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cantwell	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Capito	Kaine	Shaheen
Cassidy	Kelly	Sheehy
Collins	Kennedy	Slotkin
Coons	King	Sullivan
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Thune
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Tuberville
Cramer	Lujan	Van Hollen
Crapo	Lummis	Vance
Cruz	Marshall	Warner
Curtis	McConnell	Warnock
Daines	McCormick	Welch
Duckworth	Moran	Whitehouse
Durbin	Moreno	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Wyden
Fetterman	Ossoff	Young

NAYS—9

Booker	Markey	Schatz
Hirono	Merkley	Smith
Kim	Sanders	Warren

NOT VOTING—6

Hassan	Murphy	Padilla
Murkowski	Murray	Schiff

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 84, the nays are 9.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

RECOGNIZING NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY BISON

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise today, along with my colleague from North Dakota, Senator KEVIN CRAMER, to honor the 2024 NCAA FCS national champions, the North Dakota State University Bison—and, yes, it is pronounced "buy-zuhn." Anyone from Bison Nation, which is the ardent fan base that supports this great program, will tell you that.

On Monday night, the Bison finished another impressive football season by winning their 10th FCS national title—correct, their 10th. The Bison broke their own record for the most FCS titles of all time, including their wins in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, and now 2024. They have won, actually, 19. That is just 10 since 2011. They have actually one 19 NCAA football championships.

The game was on national television, with more than 3 million people watching as it neared its exciting conclusion. I had the opportunity last night to talk to President Trump about it, and right away, he said: You guys have a great team. Senator CRAMER was there as well, and as a matter of fact, I think Senator CRAMER texted him either during or right after the game. I am not sure. He will tell us. But, needless to say, I waited until Wednesday night to talk to the President. But he, right away, said: You have a great team, a great program, and of course we want them back at the White House.

We had them there, Kevin, I think it was 5 years ago.

Mr. CRAMER. Yes.

Mr. HOEVEN. To say it was a great visit would be an understatement. I mean, it was unbelievable. The President took time to talk to all of the football players, and he had them come to the Oval Office, and I think he had a great time. It was a great experience, and so we are very excited about going back and truly, truly appreciating President Trump's hospitality and willingness to have this great team back.

Also, you realize that President Trump is a real sports fan.

Mr. CRAMER. Yes.

Mr. HOEVEN. He really is. He knows about our Bison team and, of course, about everybody else's team too. He knows his sports.

It was a hard-fought game. I have to say it was a hard-fought game. We played a truly worthy opponent, the Montana State University Bobcats. The Bobcats actually had an unbeaten season going at that point and really had steamrolled a lot of very good teams, and they are to be commended as well.

As a point of interest there, their coach, Brent Vigen, is an outstanding coach and a class guy. You saw that in the way he handled the game. Obviously, it was very—you know, they played their hearts out. It was a tough

loss for them, but they showed absolute class, starting with their coach and their fan base and certainly the team. Actually, he was a player for the North Dakota Bison. He was a tight end on our football team a number of years back and was an offensive coordinator. So he was a coach at North Dakota State University.

He has turned that Montana State program around. They are a tough, tough program and will continue to be. He is an outstanding coach.

So the championship capped off a great season for the Bison. They ended 14 and 2 and proved once again that they really are a dominant force when it comes to FCS football.

I just want to take a minute now to recognize and congratulate the players and the coaches who are so vital to this success.

Quarterback Cam Miller just had an incredible game. He had an incredible year, but he really showed his mettle in this final game. He led the team. He was, of course, named the most outstanding player. He rushed 18 times for 121 yards. So he rushed 18 times, 121 yards, and 2 touchdowns, and he completed 19 of 22 passes for almost 200 yards. Now, those are the kinds of stats that are just off the chart. But his leadership all year long and certainly in the playoffs was just unbelievable.

I also want to acknowledge Marty Brown. He is a freshman running back who won the Jerry Rice Award as the freshman of the year and obviously just had an incredible year. It is a very prestigious award. He rushed for more than 1,000 yards and scored 14 touchdowns during the year.

Also, I want to recognize wide receiver Bryce Lance, a tremendous young receiver. He tied the record on Monday for the most single-season touchdowns in Missouri Valley Conference history, which is the conference that the Bison play in, and he had a total of 17 touchdowns.

We honor the whole team, though. It takes a team of incredible players, incredible senior leadership, a number of whom are going to be drafted—no question about it. There will be high draft choices. It was well-coached by Tim Polasek, who is a first-year coach. He is a former Bison as well. He was a coach under Craig Bohl for the Bison. He came back, and this was his first year as head coach, so obviously it was exciting for him to win the title in his first year.

There are also some other coaches I want to mention. I specifically want to mention Coach Randy Hedberg, who is a longtime friend of mine. He is the quarterback's coach, and this guy is a quarterback whisperer. He coached quarterbacks who are in the NFL now—Carson Wentz, who is with the Chiefs; Easton Stick, who is with the Chargers; and Trey Lance, who is with the Dallas Cowboys.

This guy was actually a professional quarterback himself. Amongst other teams, he played for the Tampa Bay

Buccaneers. In the first game the Tampa Bay Buccaneers won—John McKay was the coach—in the very first game they won as an expansion team, Randy Hedberg was the quarterback. He has the gift.

So we get these great players, and we have a string of players who go to the NFL, and no doubt Cam Miller will as well.

Coach Devin Klieman, who is the son of former Bison Head Coach Chris Klieman, who is now at Kansas State—you know, the legacy goes on, and Chris Klieman's son Devin is with us.

Carlton Littlejohn is a standout linebacker. I remember watching him play.

Then also there is Coach Grant Olson. He is a former player, and Amy, his wife, is a professional golfer. So this is an athletic family. Those kids are going to be something else, I will tell you that. He was selected to the 2025 class of the American Football Coaches Association's 35 Under 35 Coaches Leadership Institute. He did a tremendous job with the defense.

To all of them—to all of the coaches and, of course, most of all, to these incredible young student athletes—they were just awesome this year. They did an incredible job. So I want to congratulate all of them and congratulate Athletic Director Matt Larsen and another individual who is a good friend of both of ours, Dave Cook, the president of the university—a class act. Big kudos to him.

I have to conclude on Bison Nation. Oh, I forgot. Here are my posters. I will show them quickly.

Here they are celebrating after the big win in Frisco, TX. We kind of like to refer to Frisco, TX, as Fargo South.

Mr. CRAMER. Yes.

Mr. HOEVEN. One of the high schools in Fargo is called Fargo South. Maybe that is how it got started. But we love Frisco. We love Frisco, TX. Having won 10 championships there may have something to do with it, but it is a marvelous place. Here they are celebrating afterward, and then here is the coach. Here is Coach Tim Polasek holding up the trophy there. I think you can see KEVIN CRAMER in the back. Oh, I guess not. I guess we were here.

Mr. CRAMER. I was not there.

Mr. HOEVEN. So we weren't there, but we would have loved to have been there.

Bison Nation really supports this team, and you can't do it without that kind of fan base, although I have to tell you that the Montana State Bobcats were there in force, because I talked to players or I talked to some of the folks who were there, some of the alumni and fans who had gone to the game, and they said that Montana State really supported their team well.

So with that, I am going to turn to my colleague Senator CRAMER, who is going to offer some more remarks. Like I said, we are excited because our work is not done. We will continue working with the team and look forward to a White House visit.

Senator CRAMER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I am going to do what I do so well and so often and agree with JOHN HOEVEN. How is that?

Mr. HOEVEN. That is good.

Mr. CRAMER. I won't bore you with a lot of the same information. But he did set up—I think, JOHN, you set up a perfect opportunity to dig into the dynasty a little bit when you went through every year.

Remember, we have been in Congress every year that they won one of these FCS championships. Somebody reminded me of that yesterday. So we have given a lot of these speeches. I have made several in the House.

Webster says that a dynasty is "a succession of rulers of the same line of descent"—"a succession of rulers of the same line of descent." So when Senator HOEVEN went through the names of those coaches in these last 14 years, they are in the line of descent.

Craig Bohl, who went to Wyoming from NDSU, was the coach when NDSU became eligible for the FCS championship series.

Just to put a little bit more meat on that, NDSU was a Division II—NCAA Division II powerhouse for years, winning several national championships. They switched over to Division I and then became eligible. They didn't become eligible to even be in the tournament until 2008. So just imagine that. They were, basically, the junior varsity until 2008, when they became eligible for the playoffs. And in 2010, they got to the quarter finals.

So we got these ten championships, but let's not forget, they—and one of the other times, one of the other 4 years that they didn't win the national championships, they were in the quarter finals. And 2 of the years of those 4, they were in the semifinals. And the other year, they were the runner-up. So what are they, then, 9 and 0 in Frisco. No wonder we like Fargo South.

I might also point to this little tidbit—and maybe the NCAA is doing this to us on purpose: Next year's game and the next couple of years are going to be in Nashville. So MARSHA and BILL are going to have to host this. But, anyway, we will wait for that to happen.

So 10 championships since 2011. That is a dynasty. Everybody is using the word "dynasty." ESPN is using the word "dynasty." You can't help but use the word "dynasty."

Senator HOEVEN, you are correct to compliment the Bobcats. My gosh, I mean, the two quarterbacks in this game, Tommy Mellott from Montana State and Cam Miller from NDSU, played each other in the same game when they were freshmen. Both of them started for their respective teams when they were freshmen, and NDSU prevailed in that game as well. But what a program and what a great group of guys that created.

One of the things that I wanted to throw out there is—by the way, this poster, this is what I texted to President Trump about 30 seconds after the game. NDSU posted this image on their X or their Twitter feed, so I forwarded it to President Trump and said: Does this mean we get to come to the White House? He said yes, with an exclamation mark. He loves the program. He loves the program.

But NDSU is a really good football program, the best football program, but there are a lot more. NDSU is a research institute. It is a land grant university. JOHN and I and anybody in ag country knows how valuable, how important they are to our economy, to our farmers, the research that they do. They are an R-1 research university, one of the top 100 research universities in the United States, with about 12,000 students, about 100 majors, and, of course, graduate programs and doctoral programs—all kinds of opportunities for young men and women who are looking for an education and a fun place to get one.

So we are just so proud of North Dakota State University. We are proud of all of our universities, the private ones and the public ones. They stand out in so many ways. But this is NDSU's day.

We are just honored to be able to celebrate with them in this sort of special way.

And I look forward to going to Nashville about a year from now and watching another one, JOHN.

JOHN, he is a little more—you know, he doesn't like to set the bar too high and get disappointed. But we are almost never disappointed. So I am getting my tickets for Nashville.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. HOEVEN. Just a final comment, just so the folks can see our ties, because I really want to commend you on your outstanding choice of the green and yellow NDSU—North Dakota State University—tie.

I have the weak version of the tie, Mr. President. I know in Nebraska, you understand how important agriculture is.

So we are proud of our school for our football teams but also because it is one of the leading schools of agriculture in the country, and for so many other reasons as well.

Mr. CRAMER. If I might reclaim a moment.

I think there are two Montana Senators who should be wearing those ties. But, anyway, we will find them later.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HOEVEN. Thank you, Mr. President. We yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to address my colleagues about a circumstance in Kansas and, really, in the country, the pressing need for reform at Haskell Indian Nations University following serious allegations and finding of wrong-

doing by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Education.

Haskell University is a university located in Lawrence, KS. Haskell is the sole Tribal Nations University in the country and was established by the Department of the Interior for the purpose of maintaining the Federal Government's trust responsibilities and treaty agreements to the Native Americans.

Haskell University serves as a custodian of Tribal culture, offering students the opportunity to receive tuition-free higher education in an environment that understands and prioritizes indigenous values.

Yet despite its critical importance, Haskell has faced significant challenges. Haskell's campus, which once served as a sanctuary for Native American art and history, has for years been neglected by the Bureau of Indian Education. Various buildings on campus, many which serve as U.S. National Historic Landmarks, are in disrepair or no longer in use.

Many of the residential buildings on campus are not equipped with heating, ventilation, or air-conditioning, and the campus is not—not—compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

It is the responsibility of the Bureau of Indian Education, as described in the Indian Education Act of 1972, to “insure continued and expanded educational opportunities for Indian students.”

Yet the BIE has failed to maintain Haskell's infrastructure or to provide a safe campus for students and employees.

Since 2017, I have been working to bring attention to the BIE's mismanagement of the university, and on multiple occasions, I have called on leadership at the Department to address the wide array of problems and challenges at Haskell.

In 2022, serious allegations were reported to my office regarding improper treatment of students and the wrongful termination of an employee at Haskell Indian Nations University.

In response, I contacted the Director of Indian Education, urging the BIE to address these issues. Although the BIE, of course, assured me in March of 2023 that changes would be made to alleviate my concerns, we continued to hear and continue to hear from students and staff reporting the problems and reporting that those problems that were reported back then were not being addressed adequately.

In October 2023, I was informed of a confidential, on-campus investigation into the issues at Haskell. In April of 2024, a report was released due to an investigation by a government watchdog Agency, which revealed serious problems, including failures to adequately establish and follow policies regarding sexual assault, wrongful termination of employees, and intimidation of faculty and students.

With these findings, I called for a systemic overhaul within BIE, but as

has almost always been the case, the Department of the Interior chose to delegate the responsibilities to an Assistant Secretary and refused to directly address the issues at hand.

Since April 2024, I have made repeated requests to meet with Deb Haaland, the Secretary of the Interior, to discuss these issues. Every attempt for a discussion was rebuffed.

This ongoing neglect is unacceptable. It is past time for real change at Haskell.

To address these issues, last month I released a draft piece of legislation to provide a Federal charter for Haskell Indian Nations University and to remove the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Education from direct oversight of the university.

The legislation will empower Haskell with self-governance, providing an organizational structure that reflects its mission, community, and needs of its students.

The marker bill calls for the establishment of a new governing body at Haskell, a board of regents composed of Native American leaders, educators, and community members who will be directly accountable to the students, staff, and to the Tribes that Haskell serves.

The board would manage the university's budget, make decisions regarding academic programming, faculty, and facilities, ensure that the institution is providing a high-quality educational experience for students that attend Haskell University—an educational experience that they deserve.

I appreciate the support from the Haskell Board of Regents, the president of the board, Brittany Hall, said this:

These challenges underscore the critical need for a more tailored governance model empowered by a U.S. Congressional charter—one that enables the University to thrive while better serving its students and communities.

By moving Haskell outside the purview of BIE, we remove the bureaucratic ambivalence that has hindered the university's growth and damaged in significant ways its potential.

I would like to request that members of the Native American, Lawrence, KS, and higher education communities submit feedback to my office or to my colleague who is leading this effort in the House of Representatives, Congressman TRACEY MANN, on the proposed legislation to ensure this bill effectively addresses key issues. We are looking for comment and input.

The history of the Federal Government's treatment of Native Americans is filled with broken promises. We should not allow Haskell, a cornerstone of Native higher education, to become another promise we fail to keep.

The students who walk through the doors of Haskell deserve better than the inefficiency and mismanagement and the neglect they have faced under the current governance system.

I look forward to working with all stakeholders to refine the draft legislation and request my colleagues join me

in my efforts to secure a prosperous future for Haskell University.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LETTERS OF RESIGNATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the letters from Senator VANCE regarding his resignation from the Senate be printed in the RECORD.

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

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

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, DC, January 9, 2025.

Hon. KAMALA D. HARRIS,
Vice President of the United States,
The White House, Washington, DC.

MADAM VICE PRESIDENT: I have enclosed a letter of resignation addressed to the Governor of Ohio, announcing my resignation from the office of United States Senator effective January 10, 2025. I would like to bring this letter to your attention in your capacity as President of the Senate.

Sincerely,

J.D. VANCE,
United States Senator,
Vice President-Elect.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, DC, January 9, 2025.

Hon. MICHAEL DEWINE,
Governor of Ohio, Columbus, Ohio.

DEAR GOVERNOR DEWINE: I hereby resign my office as a United States Senator from the State of Ohio, effective January 10, 2025. As I prepare to assume my duties as Vice President of the United States, I would like to express that it has been a tremendous honor and privilege to serve the people of Ohio in the Senate over the past two years.

Sincerely,

J.D. VANCE,
United States Senator,
Vice President-Elect.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 23

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 23) to impose sanctions with respect to the International Criminal Court engaged in any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person of the United States and its allies.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for a second time on the next legislative day.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER AND COMMENDING PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER FOR HIS LIFE-LONG CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE, HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP, DIPLOMACY, AND COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 19, submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 19) honoring the life and legacy of President Jimmy Carter and commending President Jimmy Carter for his life-long career of public service, humanitarian leadership, diplomacy, and courageous advocacy.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 19) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MORNING BUSINESS

ELECTORAL COUNT ACT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise to mark the fact that Monday's joint session of Congress was the first time that Congress certified the results of a Presidential election with the much-needed and significant reforms in place to the Electoral Count Act that we enacted in 2022 with broad bipartisan support.

Senators from both parties came together to enact these critical updates to address ambiguities in the law that those trying to subvert the will of the American people tried to exploit 4 years ago—and to ensure that nothing like the chaos of January 6, 2021, ever happens again. Importantly these reforms ensure the electoral votes for President accurately reflect each State's election results, including raising the threshold to challenge a State's electoral votes from just one Member of the House and one Member of the Senate to one-fifth of each Chamber and preventing State legislatures from appointing electoral slates against the will of the voters. The updated law also sets deadlines for States when certifying their election results in an effort to ensure that the peaceful transfer of power is carried out in line with the requirements set forth in the Constitution.

Some have noted that while Kansas' electors met as required on December 17, 2024, and the certificate conveying Kansas' electoral votes was received by the Senate in line with the updated law, the State's certificate of ascertainment was inadvertently issued 1 day late on December 12 rather than December 11. Moving forward, it is important that States make all possible efforts to meet this deadline and the others set by the Electoral Count Reform Act to ensure the timely certification of Presidential election results and to support the administration of the peaceful transition of power that is the foundation of our democracy.

MCCRACKEN COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in the early 1800s, a band of pioneers settled in Kentucky's Jackson Purchase founding what would become McCracken County. At the confluence of the Tennessee and Ohio Rivers, this settlement grew over time into a bustling center for business, agriculture, and the arts. This year, on their bicentennial anniversary, the people of McCracken County will pay tribute to two centuries of rich history and cultural heritage, and today, I am proud to join them as they mark this impressive milestone.

The county was named in tribute to Captain Virgil McCracken, a brave Kentuckian who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Battle of the River Raisin during the War of 1812. Like much of the rest of the Purchase, McCracken County was blessed with fertile land and grew, thanks to its easy access to Kentucky's inland waterways. Dry dock facilities for steam and towboats soon cropped up, while Paducah, the county seat of McCracken County since 1832, became an important railway hub. By the turn of the 19th century, McCracken County formed an integral part of Kentucky's commerce, culture, and governance.

Around this time, the county produced one of our State's most prominent political figures, Alben Barkley. The story goes that Barkley bought a "one-eyed horse named Dick" to transport him all across McCracken County during his first campaign for county attorney. But the secret to Barkley's success was less his mode of transportation than his amiable and empathetic personality. Not one to waste time, Barkley quickly found his footing on the national political stage, rising from Congressman to Senator to Senate majority leader to our Nation's 35th Vice President under President Harry Truman. Barkley continues to cast a long shadow on Kentucky's political history, something I am reminded of daily. I mean this quite literally; this son of McCracken County continues to hold a prominent place in my office, his portrait hanging on the wall of my Capitol office, alongside that of Senator John Sherman Cooper.

Another important moment in McCracken's history came in the Cold War, when the community bolstered American security at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, which began production of enriched uranium in 1952. For many years, the plant remained the only operating uranium enrichment facility in the United States. While that work has since completed, the plant's employees remain dedicated to their jobs and the important work they perform each day to transition this facility into the future.

Today, McCracken County remains the heart of America's inland waterways and a center for creativity and folk art that serves as the gateway to west Kentucky's history and opportunity. Kentuckians from all across the Commonwealth travel to Paducah each year, the cherished home of the National Quilt Museum and other famed attractions like the Paducah Riverfront, the Paducah Railroad Museum, the Tilghman Civil War Museum, the Inland Waterways Museum, and the William Clark Market House Museum, the county's oldest museum. It is no surprise that, every year, more and more families decide to call McCracken County home. With the leadership of Judge Executive Craig Clymer, the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce, and other dedicated Kentuckians, this vibrant community will continue to succeed in our Commonwealth. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in honoring McCracken County and its 200 years of history and heritage.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING KARI DZIEDZIC

• Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to enter the following letter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, on behalf of Ms. KLOBUCHAR and myself. The material follows:

TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF KARI DZIEDZIC: Our thoughts are with you and everyone who knew and loved Kari. As we are in Washington this week, we will be submitting this letter to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in Kari's honor.

Like all of you, we were both lucky enough to call Kari a friend and saw firsthand how she met people where they are to get big things done for our state. She governed with strength, calm, and grace, always seeking solutions over soundbites.

Serving others came naturally to Kari—you could say it was in her blood. Her dad, the late Walt Dziedzic, was a Minneapolis legend in his own right who taught her the importance of public service. She carried those lessons with her, emerging from the rough-and-tumble world of old-school Northeast Minneapolis politics and carving out her own path as a leader who earned the respect of leaders from both sides of the aisle.

It was because of her ability to listen to others, bridge divides, and focus on results that her colleagues chose her to serve as Majority Leader. Her leadership improved lives across the state. And although her tragic cancer diagnosis forced her to step down from her position last year, her impact will be felt for generations to come:

Every new parent who takes paid leave to care for their child can thank Kari Dziedzic.

Every worker who has taken earned sick and safe time can thank Kari Dziedzic.

And every kid who no longer has to go hungry at school can thank Kari Dziedzic.

In describing her approach to public service, Kari quoted her former boss the late Senator Paul Wellstone in saying, "we all do better when we all do better." That principle was clear in everything she did, and there is no question that we are all better off for having had her in our lives.

Our state is better because of Kari Dziedzic. As you come together today to celebrate her life, know that our prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Sincerely,

AMY KLOBUCHAR,
United States Senator.
TINA SMITH,
United States Senator.●

REMEMBERING MARY MURPHY

• Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to enter the following letter into the Congressional Record, on behalf of Ms. KLOBUCHAR and myself. The material follows:

TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MARY MURPHY: Our thoughts are with you and everyone who knew and loved Mary. As we are in Washington this week, we will be submitting this letter to the Congressional Record in Mary's honor.

Mary was a beloved daughter of Northern Minnesota who went from her childhood home in Hermantown all the way to the State Capitol, where she would go on to become the longest-serving woman in the history of the Minnesota House.

Before that, though, she was a social studies and history teacher, and she carried that spirit with her to the state legislature. Her work was proof that history is not only a record of what has been, but a roadmap for what can be. Having grown up under the New Deal during the Great Depression, she saw firsthand that public service had the power to lift people up. Throughout her nearly half a century in the state legislature, Mary fought to do exactly that.

They may not know it, but countless Minnesotans have felt her impact in one way or another:

Every barber, waiter, and bartender who earns the full state minimum wage can thank Mary Murphy.

Every student at Fond du Lac Tribal College can thank Mary Murphy.

And every kid who participates in Head Start, ECFE, or Youthworks can thank Mary Murphy.

That's barely scratching the surface. Mary improved the lives of Minnesotans from all walks of life—and for years, she did it while often being one of the only women at the table in Northern Minnesota. Because of her leadership, that has changed, but in so many ways, she was ahead of her time. As her friend and colleague Erin Murphy has said, Mary "was a trailblazer in every way that you could imagine."

Our state is better because of Mary. As you come together today to celebrate her life, know that our prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Sincerely,

AMY KLOBUCHAR,
United States Senator.
TINA SMITH,
United States Senator.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBIN PHILIPS

• Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Robin Philips, who is

retiring after over two decades of leadership at the Advocates For Human Rights.

Robin was on the organization's delegation to document violence against women in Romania in 1994. She then founded the Advocates' Women's Human Rights Program, one of the first in the United States. Robin's work has been revolutionary in ensuring recognition for women's human rights as human rights and developing a partner-based methodology.

The Advocates is committed to human rights work built on partnerships with, and led by, individuals impacted by human rights violations. Volunteers are at the heart of the Advocates' work, with thousands of supporters contributing their time to legal services, fact-finding, advocacy, outreach, and operational support.

Under Robin's leadership, the Advocates has provided pro bono legal counsel to more than 7,000 noncitizen victims of persecution, torture, trafficking, prolonged detention, and family violence. She has made Minnesota a leader in anti-human trafficking efforts by advocating for our Safe Harbor For Sexually Exploited Youth Act and for expanding the State's criminal statute to protect more people from labor trafficking and provide permanent State funding for victims.

As executive director, Robin has also greenlit transitional justice projects in Peru, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. She supervised work with partners worldwide to abolish the death penalty. More than two-thirds of countries in the world have now abolished the death penalty in law or in practice. Robin has also been deeply committed to the Advocates' Nepal School Project, which has provided education as an alternative to child labor, serving over 1,000 low-income Nepali students. These achievements are highlights of Robin's impact on our State and world.

Congratulations on your well-earned retirement, Robin, and best of luck in your next chapter.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 23. An act to impose sanctions with respect to the International Criminal Court engaged in any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person of the United States and its allies.

The message further announced that pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 2001, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following Members to the House Office Building Commission to serve with himself: Mr. SCALISE of Louisiana and Mr. JEFFRIES of New York.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 23. An act to impose sanctions with respect to the International Criminal Court engaged in any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person of the United States and its allies.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-51. A communication from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Director for Financial Management, Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Adjustments for Inflation" (RIN0605-AA69) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-52. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes; Amendment 39-22881" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-0228) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-53. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes; Amendment 39-22840" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-1468) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-54. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments" (RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31580) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-55. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments" (RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31581) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-56. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Zealand, MT" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2084) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-57. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace; Abbotsford Airport, Abbotsford, BC" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2084) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-58. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Updates to BasicMed" (RIN2120-AM06) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2580) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-59. A communication from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifications; 2024-2025 Annual Specifications and Management Measures for Pacific Sardine" (RIN0648-XD848) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-60. A communication from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pacific Island Fisheries; Amendment 7 to the Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the American Samoa Archipelago and Final Rule; Discontinue Rebuilding Plan for American Samoa Bottomfish and Implement Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures for Fishing Year 2024-2026" (RIN0648-BN03) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-61. A communication from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea Subarea and Eastern Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD956) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-62. A communication from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XE445) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-63. A communication from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfer From New York to North Carolina" (RIN0648-XE510) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on Decem-

ber 30, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-64. A communication from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Framework Adjustment 16 to the Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan" (RIN0648-BN02) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-65. A communication from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfer From New Jersey to North Carolina" (RIN0648-XE335) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-66. A communication from the Director of Rulemaking Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementing the Whistleblower Provisions of the Vehicle Safety Act" (RIN2127-AL85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-67. A communication from the Director of Rulemaking Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Event Data Recorders" (RIN2127-AM12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-68. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Chief Counsel, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Freight Car Safety Standards Implementing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act" (RIN2130-AC94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-69. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Integration of Powered-Lift: Pilot Certification and Operations; Miscellaneous Amendments Related to Rotorcraft and Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-1275) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 38. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to penalize false communications to cause an emergency response, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 39. A bill to increase the maximum reward amount for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Nicolas Maduro Moros to \$100,000,000, which shall be paid out by the Federal Government from all assets being withheld from Nicolas Maduro Moros, officials of the Maduro regime and their co-conspirators; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KIM, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 40. A bill to address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 41. A bill to establish Joint Operations Centers along the southern border of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 42. A bill to establish the Southern Border Wall Construction Fund and to transfer unobligated amounts from the Coronavirus State and local fiscal recovery funds to such Fund to construct and maintain physical barriers along the southern border; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. COTTON, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 43. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for a safe harbor from infringement of a method of use patent relating to drugs or biological products; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 44. A bill to direct the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the United States Capitol; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 45. A bill to reduce a portion of the annual pay of Members of Congress for the failure to adopt a concurrent resolution on the budget which does not provide for a balanced budget, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KING, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. COONS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. REED, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MARKEY,

Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KIM, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

S. 46. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand eligibility for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 47. A bill to provide for regulations on protecting statutory conscience rights in health care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 48. A bill to establish a Federal grant program to combat the smuggling and trafficking of children and young women; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 49. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to police departments in the People's Republic of China and other persons seeking to establish a Chinese police presence in the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 50. A bill to prohibit the intentional hindering of immigration, border, and customs controls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KIM, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 51. A bill to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. LEE, Mr. RICKETTS, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 52. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require a DNA test to determine the familial relationship between an alien and an accompanying minor; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 53. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to fingerprint noncitizen minors entering the United States who are suspected of being victims of human trafficking, to require the Secretary to publicly disclose the number of such minors who are fingerprinted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials and the number of child traffickers who are apprehended by CBP, to impose criminal penalties on noncitizen adults who use unrelated minors to gain entry into the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 54. A bill to authorize an additional district judgeship for the district of Idaho; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 55. A bill to preserve the constitutional authority of Congress and ensure accountability and transparency in legislation; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. KING):

S. 56. A bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 with respect to the Acer access and development program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KING, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 57. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to include maple syrup under the seniors farmers' market nutrition program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 58. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 107 North Hoyne Avenue in Fritch, Texas, as the "Chief Zeb Smith Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 59. A bill to end the practice of including more than one subject in a single bill by requiring that each bill enacted by Congress be limited to only one subject, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 60. A bill to end the unconstitutional delegation of legislative power which was exclusively vested in the Senate and House of Representatives by article I, section 1 of the Constitution of the United States, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to issue a report to Congress detailing the extent of the problem of unconstitutional delegation to the end that such delegations can be phased out, thereby restoring the constitutional principle of separation of powers set forth in the first sections of the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 61. A bill to establish a national human trafficking database at the Office for Victims of Crime of the Department of Justice, and to incentivize certain State agencies to report data to the database; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 62. A bill to limit eligibility for Federal benefits for certain immigrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. MORENO):

S. 63. A bill to amend the Chemical and Biological Weapons Control and Warfare Elimination Act of 1991 to impose sanctions on foreign countries in response to acts concerning chemical or biological programs that cause injury to other foreign countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 64. A bill to direct the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for Fairlawn, Virginia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. LEE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr.

RICKETTS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BUDD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BANKS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MORENO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. MCCORMICK):

S. 65. A bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHMITT:

S. 66. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to instruct Inspectors General to report to Congress on social media communications; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHMITT:

S. 67. A bill for a right of action against Federal employees for violations of rights secured by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 68. A bill to prohibit the suspension of collections on loans made to small businesses related to COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. SCHMITT:

S. 69. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to address governmental interference in content moderation decisions by providers of interactive computer services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. PAUL:

S. Res. 18. A resolution providing for sufficient time for legislation to be read; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr.

OSOFF, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJAN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MORENO, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr.

SCHIFF, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHEEHY, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 19. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of President Jimmy Carter and commending President Jimmy Carter for his life-long career of public service, humanitarian leadership, diplomacy, and courageous advocacy; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 9

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 9, a bill to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth.

S. 34

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 34, a bill to address the plea agreements for certain individuals detained at Guantanamo, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 1

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 1, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 42. A bill to establish the Southern Border Wall Construction Fund and to transfer unobligated amounts from the Coronavirus State and local fiscal recovery funds to such Fund to construct and maintain physical barriers along the southern border; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BARRASSO. 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. 42

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 "Build the Wall Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. SOUTHERN BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the general fund of the Treasury a sepa-

rate account, which shall be known as the "Southern Border Wall Construction Fund" (referred to in this section as the "Fund").

(b) DEPOSITS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there shall be immediately deposited into the Fund all of the unobligated amounts in the Coronavirus State and local fiscal recovery funds established under sections 602 and 603 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 802 and 803).

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts in the Fund shall be used by the Secretary of Homeland Security to construct and maintain physical barriers along the southern international border of the United States.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 18—PROVIDING FOR SUFFICIENT TIME FOR LEGISLATION TO BE READ

Mr. PAUL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 18

Resolved,

SECTION 1. TIME FOR READING OF LEGISLATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall not be in order for the Senate to consider any bill, resolution, message, conference report, amendment between the Houses, amendment, treaty, or other measure or matter until 1 session day has passed since introduction for every 20 pages included in the measure or matter in the usual form plus 1 session day for any number of remaining pages less than 20 in the usual form.

(b) POINT OF ORDER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any Senator may raise a point of order that consideration of any bill, resolution, message, conference report, amendment, treaty, or other measure or matter is not in order under subsection (a). A motion to table the point of order shall not be in order.

(2) WAIVER.—Paragraph (1) may be waived or suspended only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. All motions to waive under this paragraph shall be debatable collectively for not to exceed 3 hours equally divided between the Senator raising the point of order and the Senator moving to waive the point of order or their designees. A motion to waive the point of order shall not be amendable.

(c) CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.—This resolution is adopted pursuant to the power granted to each House of Congress to determine the Rules of its Proceedings in article I, section 5, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 19—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER AND COMMENDING PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER FOR HIS LIFE-LONG CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE, HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP, DIPLOMACY, AND COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY

Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. OSOFF, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY,

Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GALLEG0, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MORENO, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHEEHY, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 19

Whereas President Jimmy Carter was born James Earl Carter, Jr. on October 1, 1924, in Plains, Georgia;

Whereas President Carter excelled in his academic studies, graduating from Plains High School in 1941, studying at Georgia Southwestern College and the Georgia Institute of Technology, and graduating with distinction in the top 10 percent of his class at the United States Naval Academy in 1946;

Whereas President Carter married Rosalynn Carter on July 7, 1946, and they later had 4 children, 12 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren;

Whereas President Carter served the United States as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy submarine service, where he was assigned to the Navy's elite nuclear submarine program, and, after his father's passing in 1953, he resigned from his naval duties to return to Plains to run his family's peanut farm and warehouse;

Whereas President Carter began his career of public service in leadership positions in Sumter County, Georgia, before being elected to serve 2 terms as a Georgia State Senator from 1963 to 1967;

Whereas President Carter, while serving as the 76th Governor of Georgia from 1971 to

1975, challenged racial discrimination and wasteful government practices and reorganized and streamlined State government;

Whereas the people of the United States elected Jimmy Carter to serve as the 39th President of the United States from 1977 to 1981;

Whereas, in September 1978, President Carter brokered the Camp David Accords between Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, which established a framework for a historic peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, beginning an era of lasting peace between the 2 nations;

Whereas, in October 1978, President Carter signed the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-454; 92 Stat. 1111), which established the Office of Personnel Management in the Executive Branch, created the Senior Executive Service, and codified Federal labor relations for non-postal Federal employees;

Whereas, during President Carter's administration, the United States and the People's Republic of China established official diplomatic relations for the first time;

Whereas President Carter worked with Congress to create the Department of Education and the Department of Energy to oversee comprehensive education and energy policy for the United States;

Whereas, in 1979, President Carter successfully negotiated the Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty (SALT) II with Soviet Union General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev to restrict the nuclear forces of both nations;

Whereas President Carter, after leaving the White House, remained devoted to public service, serving as a professor at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and co-founding with his wife, Rosalynn, The Carter Center to alleviate human suffering and advance human rights by strengthening democracy, resolving conflicts, fighting neglected tropical diseases, and improving access to mental health care worldwide;

Whereas The Carter Center has engaged in conflict mediation in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, South America, the Caribbean, and Asia, spearheaded efforts that have nearly eradicated the Guinea worm disease and eliminated several other tropical diseases in regions of Africa and the Americas, improved mental health care, faithfully observed more than 100 elections in 40 countries to strengthen global democracies, and promoted international human rights;

Whereas President Carter was a dedicated volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and co-led the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project for over 30 years, working on approximately 4,400 homes in 14 countries to build affordable housing;

Whereas President Carter received the United Nations Human Rights Prize in 1998;

Whereas President Carter and Rosalynn Carter jointly received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1999 for their exemplary contributions towards globally advancing peace, human rights, and health;

Whereas President Carter was awarded the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize for his decades of work in international conflict resolution, human rights, and economic and social development, making him 1 of 4 United States Presidents to receive the prize;

Whereas President Carter lived to be 100 years old, longer than any other President; and

Whereas President Carter leaves behind an honorable legacy of humanitarian work and a shining example of a lifetime of service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) mourns the passing of former President Jimmy Carter, the longest living President in the history of the United States, and extends its sympathies to his family; and

(2) honors the life and legacy of former President Jimmy Carter and his contributions to the United States of America.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m., Monday, January 13; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, upon conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 1, S. 5 postcloture; finally, that all postcloture time expire at 5:30 p.m. and the Senate vote on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 1, S. 5.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 3 P.M. MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:02 p.m., adjourned until Monday, January 13, 2025, at 3 p.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING JEFFERSON COUNTY
COMMISSIONER TRACY KRAFT-
THARP

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tracy Kraft-Tharp of Jefferson County, Colorado for her service as a Jefferson County Commissioner.

Commissioner Kraft-Tharp's commitment to working across the aisle to find bipartisan solutions for the benefit of Colorado is truly remarkable. She dedicated her career to serving others, first as a public school teacher and then as a social worker at the Tennyson Center for Children. After seven years as a Colorado State Representative, she was elected to serve as a County Commissioner. Tracy used her experience as a small business owner to champion policies that help businesses and nonprofits in her community, including mentoring executive directors and expanding access to mental health services. Her dedication to improving the lives of every Coloradan is commendable, and her presence will be greatly missed.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Commissioner Tracy Kraft-Tharp for her time with the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners and sincerely thank her for her contributions to the Colorado community. I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING SHANTA
KATIPAMULA FOR FOUR AND A
HALF YEARS OF OUTSTANDING
SERVICE

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Shanta Katipamula for nearly five years of outstanding service to my office and the constituents of Washington's 1st Congressional District. Shanta joined my office in July 2020, and as someone raised in Washington, she ensured that the voices of those in our communities were front and center in our work. She has worked tirelessly on securing millions of dollars for our region through Community Project Funding (CPF) and has become known as the "CPF Queen." Shanta has been instrumental in many of my legislative efforts including securing bipartisan passage of the National Landslide Preparedness Act, which will help communities better prepare for natural disasters, saving the Redmond postal facility and protecting mail delivery for millions of King and Snohomish County residents, and advocating for en-

hanced standards and protections for wildlife as demonstrated in calling for the relocation of Tokitae, the beloved captive Southern Resident orca who was captured from the Puget Sound.

As our Legislative Correspondent and intern coordinator, Shanta ensured that every constituent received a timely response and served as a mentor to countless interns in our office. Shanta has been a trusted advisor and an invaluable member of our team. Her sharp intellect and commitment to public service have elevated our work and remind us all why we fight for our communities. She has made a lasting impact, and her legacy will continue to inspire our work for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Shanta Katipamula and wishing her the best in her next chapter.

HONORING THE SPIRIT OF KING
AWARDEES AT FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF VIENNA'S DR. MLK
JR. PROGRAM

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the distinguished Spirit of King award-ees for this year's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Program, held at First Baptist Church of Vienna.

Dr. King's legacy continues to inspire global movements for justice and equality. His vision for a more just and inclusive society lives on through ongoing efforts to address racism, inequality, and human rights across the world. He is celebrated annually on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in the United States, a reminder of his lasting influence on the fight for civil rights and social change.

The Spirit of King Awards are presented to individuals in Northern Virginia communities who embody the principles and spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. These awards honor those who work toward improving their communities, fostering equality, social justice, and unity—values that Dr. King championed.

The award-ees for this year are Nikki Brown, Deacon Dave Larrabee, and Rev. Becca Messman. Nikki Brown, founder of The Culture Cup, is a dedicated community advocate who spent a decade as a Fairfax County community outreach worker in Northern Virginia. During her time there, she uncovered the hidden African American history of Northern Virginia and realized its underappreciated significance. This discovery inspired Nikki to create a space where this heritage could be honored and celebrated. The Culture Cup is the realization of her vision, blending coffee and culture to preserve and showcase African American history in Northern Virginia. Nikki's determination and leadership have turned her dream into a vibrant reality, creating a hub where patrons can enjoy exceptional coffee

while immersing themselves in the rich tapestry of African American culture. Her legacy is a testament to the power of one individual's commitment to community enrichment and cultural preservation.

Deacon Dave Larrabee has served with the Lamb Center since February 19, 1999, in various capacities. The Lamb Center is a daytime drop-in shelter for individuals who are experiencing homelessness in Fairfax, Virginia. Dave was hired as Pastoral Assistant to launch the Saturday ministry in 2003. In 2004, he became Director of the daily operations of this ministry. Before the Lamb Center, he worked for the U.S. Department of Commerce from 1985 to 2000 and served 20 years in the U.S. Army and the Army Reserves. In May 2016, Dave graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in the MAMS Diaconal Ministry program. He has been called by the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America to serve as a Deacon at the Lamb Center.

Rev. Becca Messman is the Senior Pastor at Burke Presbyterian Church. Becca helped launch a worshipping community of recent immigrants called Lunch for the Soul that has been used as a model for community engagement around the denomination. A prolific writer, she has served as Vice President of the Presbyterian Outlook magazine and co-authored "Cultivated Ministry," a book about church vitality. She also was Co-Chair of VOICE, Virginians Organized for Community Engagement. Rev. Messman remains committed to social justice through her community engagement and roles at Burke Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Nikki Brown, Deacon Dave Larrabee, and Rev. Becca Messman for their tremendous efforts as leaders in our communities while embodying the Spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR.
KEN COWAN

HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of Dr. Ken Cowan, M.D., Ph.D., whose remarkable service left a lasting impact on our communities.

A native of New York, Dr. Cowan was a Nebraskan by choice, who warmly welcomed and quickly embraced life as a proud Cornhusker.

At the Fred and Pamela Buffett Cancer Center at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, his visionary leadership helped create the largest public-private partnership in Nebraska's history.

Dr. Cowan's achievements reached far beyond Nebraska. He was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve on the National

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

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

Cancer Advisory Board from 2002 to 2008, received the 2019 Appreciation Award from the Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska, and authored over 240 scientific papers. His work advanced the field of cancer treatment and improved lives Nationwide.

Drawing from his personal experiences with cancer, both as a physician and family member, Dr. Cowan brought empathy and compassion to patient care. Known for his warmth and approachability, his legacy endures in the lives he touched and the advancements he championed.

Nebraska's thoughts and prayers are with Dr. Ken Cowan's wife, Dr. Alison Freifeld, their two daughters, and extended family. His dedication to service and compassion will be dearly missed.

HONORING CAPTAIN JOHN
"GIDDYUP" BUNCH FOR HIS
WORK SERVING AMERICA'S VET-
ERANS

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Captain John "GiddyUp" Bunch for his extensive work serving America's military veterans.

A Marine veteran himself, Captain Bunch provided his first free fishing charter to an Army combat veteran in 2005, an outing that led to Bunch founding the non-profit organization Operation Open Arms.

Over several years, Capt. Bunch and Operation Open Arms facilitated unique recreational experiences for almost 4,000 service members, paid for more than 100 weddings for veterans, and provided a broad array of other services to our nation's heroes.

Bunch's devoted, tireless, and effective work through Operation Open Arms provided a vital service to his brothers and sisters in arms by welcoming them home, showing them the gratitude of their communities, and frequently by directly meeting their needs.

On behalf of the People of the Maryland's First Congressional District, I would like to express sincere thanks and appreciation to Captain Bunch for his tireless efforts and work.

RECOGNIZING PARK COUNTY
COMMISSIONER DICK ELSNER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard "Dick" Elsner of Park County, Colorado for his service to the people of Fairplay, Alma, Bailey, and other rural communities, on the Park County Board of County Commissioners.

During his time in office, Commissioner Elsner, worked across regions and party lines to help the people of Park County. He has been dedicated to ensuring that rural communities have a voice at the state and federal levels. As Vice Chair of the Central Front Range Transportation Region, he secured

funding for a \$3.5 million transportation hub in Fairplay. He also played a key role in seeking to re-establish healthcare access to Park County, a community that has been underserved for decades. His dedication to public service has left a mark on Colorado, and his presence will be missed.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Commissioner Elsner for his time with the Park County Board of County Commissioners and sincerely thank him for his contributions to the Colorado community. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
SLEEPY EYE MAYOR WAYNE
PELZEL

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Wayne Pelzel, a friend, public servant, and fellow southern Minnesotan who is retiring from eight years of service as the Mayor of Sleepy Eye.

Since his election in 2016, Wayne has faithfully served the people of Sleepy Eye and the greater Brown County community, working alongside the city council and city staff to understand the needs of its residents and improve the lives of those who call Sleepy Eye home.

In his two terms as mayor, Wayne oversaw a period of growth and revitalization for Sleepy Eye, bringing new life to Main Street, welcoming new businesses to town, expanding housing, and growing the city's recreational opportunities.

While Wayne leaves behind big shoes to fill, his tenure of dedicated service to the City of Sleepy Eye will be remembered by all of us for years to come.

I congratulate Wayne on his well-deserved retirement. I thank him for his leadership and his service to our southern Minnesota community. I wish Wayne and Pattie all the best in this next chapter.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was unable to vote on January 7, 2025. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted: No on Roll Call No. 6, H.R. 29—The Laken Riley Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH BRECHEEN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained because of family obliga-

tions and was unable to cast my vote on H.R. 29 and H.R. 23. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 6, and YEA on Roll Call No. 7.

HONORING JUDGE ROBERT L.
DOYEL FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE
CENTRAL FLORIDA COMMUNITY

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Robert L. Doyel served his country with the U.S. Navy at Vietnam, where he oversaw meals for 10,000 soldiers, and as a Circuit Court Judge in Central Florida from 1995 through 2010.

Judge Doyel's passion for the underdog was a result of his humble upbringing in Shawnee, Oklahoma, as the youngest of Ruby Doyel's 10 children—and the only one to graduate college. After one winter living with his family in an old chicken coop, Judge Doyel worked through high school and college, graduating from the University of Oklahoma with degrees in Accounting and Law. He was an attorney in Oklahoma before becoming a law professor at Ole Miss, where colleagues included former Washington NFL star and future Ole Miss Chancellor Robert Khayat, and students included future novelist John Grisham.

When he registered his son Gregg for youth baseball in 1978 in Oxford, Mississippi, Judge Doyel learned the city Civic League was still segregated. Having already committed to coaching, Judge Doyel stayed that summer but made it his mission to destroy the league. He recruited other white families in 1979 to the Oxford Parks Commission, and the segregated league soon folded.

Judge Doyel earned his Masters of Law and Doctorate of Juridical Science degrees from the University of Wisconsin in 1984, and taught at Mercer's School of Law before moving to Winter Haven, Florida. He was a defense attorney, then a Circuit Judge specializing in family law. The title of his book on the subject brims with his fearless personality: "The Baby Mama Syndrome".

In retirement with Chelle, his wife of 37 years, Judge Doyel advised local Democratic Party leaders, served on the board for the Rainbow Ridge LGTBA Democratic Caucus of Polk County, and advocated fiercely for rape-kit testing and victims of domestic violence.

Judge Doyel died November 1, 2024, at age 79.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for Roll Call Vote No. 3, Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 5, I would have voted Nay.

Had I been present for Roll Call Vote No. 4, Motion to Commit H. Res. 5, I would have voted Yea.

Had I been present for Roll Call Vote No. 5, Agreeing to H. Res. 5, I would have voted Nay.

HONORING ROSA FIGUEROA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rosa Figueroa as she retires after 18 remarkable years as the Director of the LaGuardia Community College Small Business Development Center (SBDC). In this vital position, Rosa oversaw the Center's small business services and spearheaded economic development initiatives that has left a lasting legacy. Her tireless dedication and leadership have been instrumental in ensuring the success and growth of small businesses, particularly those in the Sunnyside, Woodside, and neighboring Queens communities.

Rosa's commitment to fostering small business development has had a profound impact on Queens and New York City as a whole. Notably, she has been a staunch advocate for minority and women-owned entrepreneurs, providing them with the resources and support needed to thrive in a competitive market.

The LaGuardia SBDC assists approximately 3,000 small businesses across Queens, New York each year through its comprehensive advising and education programs. Recognizing the crucial role these small businesses play in New York City's economy, Rosa ensured that the SBDC was an accessible and valuable resource for all small business owners. Her years of dedicated service have positioned the LaGuardia SBDC to continue its mission of supporting small businesses well into the future.

In addition to her outstanding role at the SBDC, Rosa has served on numerous boards and as a member of various business, trade, and civic organizations. Through these roles, she has tirelessly promoted small business and community partnerships, fostering local economic vitality. Rosa has received numerous accolades for her exceptional service and unwavering commitment to our state and community.

On behalf of the small business community in Queens, I extend my deepest gratitude to Rosa Figueroa for her unwavering dedication and significant contributions. Her efforts have made our city a better place to live, work, and launch a business. I am honored to recognize and congratulate Rosa on her well-deserved retirement and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 6 and NAY on Roll Call No. 7.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to the devastating wildfire affecting my district and Southern California I missed the vote on final passage for the Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act, H.R. 23. Had I been present I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 7.

While I do believe we would have produced a much better bill had it gone through regular order and received a markup in the House Foreign Affairs Committee, recent events have made it vital to pass a strong legislative response to the ICC.

The ICC's recent illegitimate, politically motivated, and legally spurious decision to issue arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant (despite having no jurisdictional or factual basis to do so) led me to now support this legislation despite my procedural concerns. Had I been able to, I would have voted to pass this bill.

However, by January 8th, thousands of homes, businesses and other structures had been destroyed and, devastatingly, several Los Angelinos were killed and many more injured as a result of devastating fires in and around the 32nd Congressional District. Given these developments, I felt it was necessary to return to my district that day which made me unavailable to vote YEA on H.R. 23 the following day when this measure came to a vote.

RECOGNIZING A. MICHAEL HICKOX

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of A. Michael Hickox and his retirement as the Property Appraiser in Nassau County, Florida.

For 12 years, Mike has been an amazing public servant, committed to fairness and customer service.

Let's be honest: being a property appraiser is one of the toughest jobs around. But Mike has done it well and leaves the office in a much better place.

While he was leading, Mike was also President and on the boards of the Florida Association of Property Appraisers, Nassau Education Foundation, and Nassau County Economic Development Board.

To put it simply, Mike has spent his career serving others.

Mike may not be our property appraiser anymore, but I know he's not done. I can't wait to see what he does next.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mike on a job well done.

RECOGNIZING CATERPILLAR INC.

HON. JAKE ELLZEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true American success story—a company I'm proud to say calls the Sixth Congressional District of Texas home—Caterpillar Inc.

This week kicks off a celebration of 100 years of hard work, innovation, and industry leadership by this iconic company. In 1925, the Holt Manufacturing Company and the C.L. Best Tractor Co. came together to form what is now known as Caterpillar. Since then, they have been at the forefront of building the machines that build the world.

From their first track-type tractors pulling harvesters in California's fields to the cutting-edge autonomous equipment and engines they produce today, Caterpillar has shaped how we live, work, and connect.

In Texas, where we pride ourselves on dreaming big and building even bigger, Caterpillar's role is front and center. Their equipment helps pave the roads, build the bridges, and support the energy projects that power not just our state but the entire country. They're not just part of the Texas story—they're helping write it.

A company that has helped build our entire nation could be located anywhere, but they're not just anywhere; they're in Texas. And as our State and my District continue to grow, I am proud to have them as part of our community.

As Caterpillar celebrates 100 years, I want to extend my appreciation to their team for all they have accomplished—and for all they will continue to do—to help our communities and our country thrive.

RECOGNIZING KENNETH SCHWARTZ' DEDICATION TO HIS NATION AND HIS COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ken Schwartz of Superior Township, Michigan, on the occasion of his retirement from the position of Township Supervisor.

Ken was born in Michigan in 1952. Raised and educated in suburban Detroit, he graduated from Cherry Hill High School in Inkster, Michigan in 1970. In 1971, Ken joined the United States Air Force and was stationed with the 56th Tactical Fighter Wing at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona. He served as a member of the hospital squadron for over three years until being honorably discharged in 1975.

After his service, Ken attended Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn before transferring to the University of Michigan in 1976 where he studied philosophy, history, and political science. After graduating, he began a new mission in life as a law student at the Cooley Law School in Lansing. Once he passed the bar exam in 1985, Ken embarked

on a long and successful law practice in Ypsilanti.

Along the way to being elected Superior Township Supervisor, Ken also was elected and appointed to many offices including the Washtenaw County Road Commission, Washtenaw County Commissioner, and is currently serving as a Superior Township Trustee. In keeping with his concern for the health and welfare of our veterans, Ken was a founding member of the Washtenaw County Veterans Affairs Commission and was elected as its Chairman in 2012.

In his position as Superior Township Supervisor, Ken set a framework by encouraging and managing selected land for development and growth, keeping the local debt reasonable, and preserving the financial assets of Superior Township. His leadership saw an improvement to township services like safer drinking water, good quality roads, and more responsive fire and police services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Ken Schwartz. Though he will be stepping down as Supervisor, he will remain on the Board of Trustees and will continue serving his residents. I thank him for his service and wish him the best as he enters this next chapter of his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 6.

HONORING ELIZABETH FINN

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Judge Elizabeth "Ellie" Finn, who passed away on December 27, 2024, following a long battle with ovarian cancer. For over four decades, Ellie served with distinction on Arizona's municipal benches, dedicating her career to building a more equitable and compassionate justice system, particularly for survivors of domestic violence and those impacted by mental illness.

Born in 1947 in New Haven, Connecticut, Ellie moved to Arizona as a young girl. Her parents, Herbert B. Finn and Ruth G. Finn, instilled a deep commitment to public service and justice in Ellie and her sister, Alice Finn, from a young age. She shared 56 years of love and partnership with her husband, Edward Turner. Together, they raised two children, Jesse and Sarah, nurturing the same sense of social responsibility that guided Ellie's own life.

Ellie earned her law degree from Arizona State University in 1972, before joining her parents and forming Arizona's first majority-female law firm, Finn, Finn, & Finn. In 1979, Ellie was appointed to the Phoenix Municipal Court, making her one of the youngest judges in Arizona. After retiring from Phoenix in 2002,

she became the presiding judge of the Glendale City Court—a position held for nearly two decades.

Throughout Ellie's tenure in law, she brought a renewed focus to issues previously overlooked in the judicial system. She championed specialized courts, including those addressing domestic violence, mental health, and homelessness, ensuring that Arizona's municipalities take a holistic approach to justice. She never lost sight of the human dimension of her work, molding a style of jurisprudence that takes into account people's lived experiences and reflects her passion for building a justice system that better serves all Arizonans. Her principles, composure, and leadership garnered local and national recognition, including honors from the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Arizona, and the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence.

Ellie's life embodied the principle of using one's gifts and passions to uplift the community. Her trailblazing spirit, advocacy for domestic violence survivors, and enduring impact on Arizona's courts will continue to guide our pursuit of justice in the years to come. We honor her memory, extend our deepest condolences to her family and loved ones, and remember her unwavering commitment to serving those most in need.

I thank Ellie and Godspeed.

HONORING THE INAUGURATION OF SAN FRANCISCO MAYOR DANIEL LURIE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rose to congratulate Daniel Lurie, the 46th Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco. Daniel Lurie is an innovative, empathic leader elected with a call to service, change and accountability.

Although he is San Francisco's first mayor since 1911 to win office without previously serving in government, Daniel Lurie is well known for his innovative approach to solving entrenched issues and delivering results for San Francisco. As the founder of Tipping Point Community, Mayor Lurie launched the Bay Area's largest anti-poverty organization, directing over \$500 million toward solutions for housing, job creation, and essential services. Under Mayor Lurie's leadership, Tipping Point spearheaded construction of a first-of-its-kind affordable housing building at 833 Bryant Street, a project that came in on time and under budget with good-paying union labor. Mayor Lurie also led the bid to bring Super Bowl 50 to the Bay Area in 2016, making it the most philanthropic Super Bowl in NFL history, and founded The Civic Joy Fund in 2023, bringing more art, music, and enthusiasm to our city streets.

Throughout his career, Mayor Lurie has set new standards for impact and partnership, including innovative public-private collaborations that uplift communities. Mayor Lurie's priorities include ensuring safety and vibrancy in all neighborhoods, as well as economic growth. He is entering City Hall effective from the start having just negotiated a hotel strike settlement

with higher wages for our union workers and stability for our vibrant hospitality industry.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Mayor Lurie lives in the City with his wife, Becca Prowda, and their two young children.

I congratulate Daniel Lurie, his mother Mimi Haas, his father Rabbi Brian Lurie, and their entire family, and look forward to working with Mayor Lurie toward a thriving San Francisco for all.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE POLICE CHIEF PAUL DEAN

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor University of New Hampshire Police Chief Paul Dean and to wish him well as he retires from an impressive career in law enforcement.

As a law enforcement officer for nearly 40 years, including the last 35 as a member of the University of New Hampshire Police Department, Chief Dean has worked tirelessly to make UNH and the State of New Hampshire safer and stronger. A testament to his commitment to the UNH community, Chief Dean was named the department's chief in 2011, continuing his excellent and important work. As Police Chief and Associate Vice President for Public Safety and Risk Management, Chief Dean guided UNH through the COVID-19 pandemic as the campus remained open for students, faculty, and staff and ensured UNH returned to normal activities as safely and as quickly as possible.

A nationally recognized leader in campus law enforcement and public safety, Chief Dean is the Immediate Past President of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators. Throughout his tenure at UNH, Chief Dean has been a champion of mental health training and accessibility for his officers and staff. Under his leadership, the UNH Police Department has remained fully accredited by CALEA and IACLEA during Chief Dean's tenure. On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I extend my gratitude to Chief Paul Dean for his exceptional service as the University of New Hampshire's Chief of Police. I join all Granite Staters in thanking Chief Dean for his leadership, professionalism, and contributions to making the community safer. I wish him and his family all the best as he embarks on the next chapter in his career.

I congratulate Chief Dean on a job very well done.

HONORING ANDY KRINER

HON. NICHOLAS J. BEGICH III

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. Speaker, it is with great reverence that I rise today to honor the life and memory of Andy Kriner, a longtime resident of Alaska, and a beloved member of the community. Mr. Kriner was the owner of

Kriner's Diner in Anchorage, which he founded in 2010. The diner became well-known for its great food and its warm, welcoming environment, rooted in the values of family, friendship, and community. It is an honor to stand before you today and pay tribute to the legacy he left behind.

Mr. Kriner embodied true American values and integrity through his commitment to advocating for small businesses in the face of adversity and standing firm in the face of government overreach. Andy was a man who deeply understood the importance of giving back. Every year, he distributed more than 400 Thanksgiving dinners to anyone who came by his diner, with no questions asked. This annual tradition demonstrated his dedication to service and his commitment to standing up for what was right, making him a pillar of our Alaskan community.

Mr. Kriner is survived by his wife, Norann, of 45 years, as well as his three children and six grandchildren. His legacy will live on through the business he built, the family he cherished, and the community he enriched.

**HONORING COLONEL ROBERT
BARTRAN**

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Colonel Robert Bartran's service, career, and accomplishments. For over 36 years, he served selflessly in the Mississippi Army National Guard.

After earning his commission in 1995 from the Officer's Candidate Course, he began a long and distinguished career. He holds an associate's degree from Hinds Community College, a bachelors degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a masters degree from Liberty University. His military education includes Basic Training, the Engineer Officers Basic and Advanced Courses, the Command and General Staff Officer Course, and many other military and civilian law enforcement schools, as well as courses in transportation, human resources, maintenance, and leadership.

He served at the platoon, company, battalion, major subordinate command, and state levels. Throughout his distinguished service, Colonel Bartran exhibited extraordinary vision, unwavering professionalism, dynamic leadership, and deep compassion. He served across the United States and around the world, including in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Afghanistan. His years of experience and training in law enforcement, border security, and criminal justice made him an invaluable asset to counterterrorism, counter-narcotics initiatives, and counterinsurgency operations. His exceptional management skills and profound concern for the well-being of all soldiers culminated in his role as the Director of the Mississippi National Guard Counterdrug Program.

Colonel Bartran's distinguished career is marked by his numerous awards and decorations, a testament to his exceptional service. Among his accolades are the Bronze Star Medal, seven Meritorious Service Medals, three Army Commendation Medals, the Iraq Campaign and Afghanistan Campaign Medals,

the Humanitarian Medal, and the Air Assault Badge, along with numerous other federal and state awards. These honors reflect his dedication and commitment to his duty, inspiring pride and honor in all who have served alongside him, including myself.

His commitment to his family, his service to our country, and his contributions to Mississippi are testaments to his character. Colonel Bartran is a true American hero, a proud Mississippian Guardsman, and a man for whom we are immensely grateful.

**RECOGNIZING CHAFFEE COUNTY
COMMISSIONER GREG FELT**

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Greg Felt of Chaffee County, Colorado for his service to the people of Salida, Buena Vista, and Poncha Springs, on the Chaffee County Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Felt is a dedicated public servant who has served the people of Chaffee County for much of his life. He led the county's response to the Decker Fire and guided public health efforts as Board of Health Chair during the pandemic. He has spent his entire life on or around the Arkansas River and has gained a unique perspective on our natural resources. With his expertise, he served as the Director for both the Upper Arkansas and Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy Districts to help protect Colorado's Water and was appointed by Gov. Jared Polis to represent the Arkansas River Basin on the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Commissioner Felt created a lasting impact on the Arkansas River, and for Chaffee County, and his presence will be missed.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Commissioner Felt for his time on the Chaffee County Board of County Commissioners and sincerely thank him for his contributions to the Colorado community. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

**WISHING RANDY HAGEDORN A
HAPPY RETIREMENT**

HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the remarkable career of one of Norfolk's most beloved community leaders, Randy Hagedorn, following four decades with the Norfolk Family YMCA.

Under Randy's leadership, the Norfolk Family YMCA experienced transformative growth. From leading an annual fundraiser that generates hundreds of thousands of dollars to support local scholarships and programs, to spearheading a successful \$13 million campaign for a major expansion in 2019, Randy's dedication has left a lasting impact on our community. These achievements have cemented the YMCA as a cornerstone of Nor-

folk's community life and serves as a model for excellence across Nebraska.

Randy's community engagement extends beyond the YMCA. For over 30 years, he has officiated football and basketball games, including NCAA events and NAIA national championships. His exemplary service earned him the prestigious 2024 NAIA Larry Lady Officiating Award.

As Randy steps into retirement, he leaves behind a thriving Norfolk Family YMCA with nearly 12,000 active members—a reflection of his vision, leadership, and dedication. His legacy will continue to shape our community for years to come.

On behalf of the people of the First District, I thank him for his service throughout his extraordinary career. It will have a big impact on our community for years to come. We wish him the best in his retirement as he begins this next chapter.

**HONORING THE CAREER AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. VERNATIUS
FRANK THOMSEN**

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN
RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and accomplishments of Mr. Vernatius Frank Thomsen. In June of 1986, Mr. Thomsen began his military career and enlisted in the U.S. Navy serving two tours on board the U.S. Sub-tender USS *Proteus* AS-19, and one tour on board the guided missile destroyer USS *Lynde McCormick* DDG-8 within the supply department and Master at Arms Division. He remained in the US Navy Reserve until August 1994. In May of 1998 he became the first USCG Reservist for American Samoa and served on active duty at the USCG Marine Safety Detachment (MSD), American Samoa until September of 2006. He continued his uniformed duties as a Reserve Maritime Enforcement, Senior Chief Petty Officer in the United States Coast Guard until his retirement in September 2018. In April 2007 Mr. Thomsen was hired as the Assistant Supervisor for the USCG Marine Safety Detachment. In November of 2011 he was designated as the Command Intelligence Officer for American Samoa, representing the Captain of the Port Sector Honolulu. From May 1998 to January 2025, Mr. Thomsen dedicated over 30 years of exceptional service to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), culminating in his role as Deputy Supervisor of the Marine Safety Unit (MSU) in American Samoa.

Throughout his tenure, he served as the backbone of continuity in a unit subject to annual personnel turnover, ensuring seamless operations and unwavering support to USCG missions. His steadfast leadership, technical expertise, and unyielding commitment to mission readiness have left an indelible impact on the maritime community of American Samoa. Mr. Thomsen's multifaceted duties encompassed training of incoming personnel, acting as a liaison with federal and state agencies, and serving as the operational leader in the absence of the Commanding Officer. His roles included conducting safety workshops with Federal and State agencies for the maritime

community, Marine Casualty Investigator, Commercial Fishing Vessel Examiner, Port State Control Officer, Foreign Tank Vessel Inspector, Explosive Handling Supervisor, Federal On-Scene Coordinator Representative, Pollution Investigator, Facility and Security Inspector, and Collateral Duty Intelligence Officer. He skillfully led and assisted numerous search and rescue missions, environmental protection operations, and vessel casualty responses, safeguarding lives, property, and the marine environment. His quick thinking and calm under pressure have saved dozens of lives and mitigated multiple disasters contributing immeasurable benefit to the overall health and safety of our beautiful islands. He has led multiple workshops and training programs to pass on his wide breadth of knowledge and prepare the next generation of maritime officers. His work in the community has also had a strong humanitarian benefit demonstrating strong Samoan cultural values of service and compassion.

Mr. Thomsen's personal military decorations are highlighted by two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, two Coast Guard Achievement Medals, four Coast Guard Commandant's Letter of Commendation, and eight Meritorious Coast Guard Team Awards. Mr. Thomsen's enduring contributions reflect his deep commitment to the Coast Guard's core values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty. His legacy is one of steadfast leadership, selfless service, and unwavering dedication to the safety and well-being of the maritime community in American Samoa and the surrounding islands. He will spend his well-deserved retirement with his wife, Denise Loretta Thomsen, his children, Vitoriao'a'ana and Frank III, and with the gratitude of the American Samoan people. His retirement ceremony will be held on January 14, 2025.

HONORING MIKE BYRNE

HON. CLIFF BENTZ

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning along with Congressman LAMALFA to honor a constituent for his decades of selfless advocacy on behalf of his family, his community, and his fellow farmers and ranchers.

Throughout a life of tireless work on his family's legacy cattle ranch with origins reaching back to the founding decades of two states, Mike Byrne has gone above and beyond at home in the Klamath Basin and around the country to support his community and enhance the legacy created by his family.

Mr. Byrne's family first came to the Klamath Basin in the 1860's, developing large-scale ranching operations on hundreds of thousands of then unclaimed acres in Klamath County, Oregon, and Modoc County, California. The family has a personal relationship with the Klamath Project since its inception, as the initial holdings of Jesse Carr were taken via eminent domain by the federal government for the construction of the Clear Lake Reservoir after the Klamath Project was authorized in 1902. Remaining acres that once comprised the initial family holdings are still grazed seasonally as an integral part of the summer cattle operations under cooperative management with

the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mike's grandfather W.C. Dalton moved the family from Clear Lake to the shore of the receding Tule Lake and was instrumental in building the D Canal to bring water from Klamath Lake to that area. Dalton sold virgin land to Czech immigrant families—many of whom still are farming—who cleared and planted the area as water was initially delivered and supported the founding of the town of Malin, Oregon.

Mike was born in 1951 to Bob and Betty Lou Byrne. He attended Newell Elementary School and, like all his siblings, was sent on a train at 13 years old to boarding school in California. While attending Bellarmine College Preparatory in San Jose, California, Mike met his wife Bev at a sophomore mixer. We'd like to congratulate the two on the 50th wedding anniversary they celebrated last year, and for their two grown children Matt and Brianna—each of whom have two grade school boys and help on the family ranch as well.

While attending University of California, Davis, Mike earned a degree in animal science and returned home to help on the ranch any chance he could. He moved home permanently in 1973 to work with his parents and siblings, with his years of school representing the only time he lived away from the ranch. At home, Mike's demonstration of leading by example on the ranch have garnered many treasured long-term employees; integral individuals he has supported and who have supported him for decades.

Mike was happy working the ranch, but in the early 1980's, at the urging of family friend and ranching industry leader Rob Flournoy, Mike was encouraged to pursue what became decades of involvement, volunteerism and support for the agricultural community on three key fronts: supporting agricultural water supply and rights, sustaining public lands grazing and supporting conservation as part of a working agricultural business.

Mike initially became involved in the Modoc County Cattlemen's Association, volunteered heavily, moved through all the officer chairs and was named Cattleman of the Year in 1992. He continued his advocacy at the California Cattlemen's Association, serving as public lands committee chairman (a position he likely held for longer than any other in the organization's history) and Second Vice President from 1989 through 1991. He was also a long-time President of the California Public Lands Council. Balancing his volunteer work with daily needs on the ranch—including the fact that his father was confined to a wheelchair—Mike chose not to accept the offer to move up further in the organization at the time but remained heavily involved.

Mike was exceptionally involved in the fallout from the galvanizing 2001 Klamath water shut off. That event set off a frenzy of activity in the community and Mike participated meaningfully and wholeheartedly, taking dozens of trips to Washington, D.C.—where he was on a first name basis with multiple cabinet secretaries and influenced countless staffers of all political stripes with his unique, disarming sense of humor, participating in countless tours and hearings with federal officials and the media and acting as a principal organizer of The Klamath Bucket Brigade. Mike knew the efforts made by so many at that time were significant and meaningful and he was honored to play a role.

In addition to his role as an advocate during the water shut off, Mike was deeply involved closer to home as Chairman of the Lava Beds Resource Conservation District, which helped to quickly and efficiently distribute relief funding to a reeling local farming community that was suddenly not sure if they would ever farm again. Fortunately, the water has come back on, but, unfortunately, efforts to secure real certainty for the community continue to this day.

He later became deeply involved in the National Cattleman's Beef Association, where he ascended to a national position as Policy Chairman in 2004, and the national Public Lands Council, where he served as President from 2004 to 2006. From those national positions he represented cattle producers in all 50 states, but he always kept his eye on the West and his heart in the Basin.

In addition to leadership roles and meetings, the Byrne family has spent many days in the field demonstrating conservation leadership. Mike and his brother Dan were recognized with the National Resources Conservation Service's nationwide Excellence in Conservation Award in 2004 and the Society for Range Management with the Excellence in Range Management award in 1998. They were also featured in two editions of the conservation ranching publication, *Grazing for Change*. Mike was proud to participate not for personal accolades, but to demonstrate to a wide range of stakeholders the positive possibilities of successful working landscape management and wildlife. Along those lines, he was also very proud of his role in relocating and releasing breeding pairs of sage grouse from Nevada to lekking areas near the original family headquarters that are still grazed annually by the Byrne family.

Mike continues to selflessly attribute the success of his efforts to being blessed with the right history, the right connections, and being in the right place at the right time. Fair enough, but then we can all count ourselves lucky that he took advantage.

While we see hundreds of committed advocates in my office each year, there are two things that make Mike unique.

First is the longevity and breadth of his service. While many people join a single organization and pass through leadership then retire, Mike's willingness to remain involved in multiple organizations providing counsel and support after his term as leader has ended is truly remarkable. He remains Chairman of the local RCD and has just recently completed many terms as board member at the Klamath Water Users Association and the Public Lands Council.

Second is his willingness to stand back from the limelight and deflect credit to others at all times while maintaining consistently good, or if you know Mike very well, you might say great humor—even if you don't quite get it. By being willing to work hard and support the community in bringing diverse groups together without caring who got the credit, Mike followed one of former President Ronald Reagan's political rules and was able to accomplish much.

We thank Mike for his many efforts and his continued support to this day and we stand with the community in saying we appreciate what he has done and thank him for what he continues to do.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to share with my colleagues and the Nation, my regard for an outstanding American.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
JOSIAH ADAMS

HON. SUZAN K. DeLBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable service of Josiah Adams, who has been an invaluable member of my team since March of 2023. During his tenure in our office, his contributions have made a significant impact.

Josiah quickly became known for his unmatched attention to detail and his can-do attitude. No job was too small, as he consistently went above and beyond to support our office. He always brought a sense of positivity that uplifted those around him. His quick and creative thinking were invaluable assets, ensuring seamless operations both within and beyond our office.

Josiah has shown a strong dedication to public service, and I know that will stay with him as he moves on to new opportunities. I want to thank him for his hard work, his optimism, and the lasting contributions he has made to our team. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Josiah Adams and wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CHAFFEE COUNTY
COMMISSIONER KEITH BAKER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Keith Baker of Chaffee County, Colorado for his service to the people of Salida, Buena Vista, and Poncha Springs on the Chaffee County Board of County Commissioners.

During his time in office, Commissioner Baker worked to improve the lives of residents in his community. He spearheaded Chaffee County Common Ground, a program dedicated to preserving agricultural land and advancing wildfire protections and helped create the Office of Housing to tackle affordable housing and sustainability challenges in the county. Commissioner Baker's dedication to Chaffee County is commendable, and his presence will be missed.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Commissioner Keith Baker for his

service on the Chaffee County Board of County Commissioners and sincerely thank him for his contributions to the Colorado community. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING CHIEF IAN
SCHMUTZLER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Police Chief Ian Schmutzler, a leader and public servant who has served the Vacaville community and beyond for nearly three decades. Chief Schmutzler's commitment to public safety and his efforts to strengthen community-police relations exemplify why he is deserving of recognition as he approaches his well-earned retirement.

Chief Schmutzler was born at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California, and has remained deeply connected to the region throughout his life. He earned a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from California State University Sacramento, and later completed a professional certificate in Law Enforcement Command from the University of San Diego.

Chief Schmutzler's distinguished law enforcement career began in 1997 with the Oakland Police Department, before he joined the Vacaville Police Department in 2000. Over the years, he has held numerous leadership roles, including Field Training Officer, Detective, Commander of the Field Operations and Support Bureaus, and ultimately Chief of Police. His tenure as Chief has been marked by significant accomplishments. Under his leadership, the department expanded community outreach through initiatives like the Police Activities League (PAL), which has fostered lasting relationships with younger generations. Additionally, Chief Schmutzler secured a \$4.4 million state grant to construct a Real-Time Information Center, positioning Vacaville as a leader in crime-fighting innovation.

Chief Schmutzler's commitment to service extends well beyond his professional duties. He has held leadership positions in organizations such as the Solano County Law Enforcement Administrators Association, Vacaville Police Managers Association, and Leaven Kids, and has served on the boards of the Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club and other local organizations. Chief Schmutzler also shares his expertise as an Associate Pro-

fessor of Criminal Justice at Union Institute & University and as an instructor at Napa Valley College's Criminal Justice Training Center, ensuring that future generations of law enforcement professionals benefit from Chief Schmutzler's wisdom and experience.

Alongside his wife, April, Chief Schmutzler has raised their two sons, Jacob and Colin, in Vacaville and plans to spend his retirement in our community he has long served.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Police Chief Ian Schmutzler for his service, leadership, and dedication to the Vacaville community. We wish him a fulfilling retirement and thank him for his lifelong commitment to making our community a safer place.

RECOGNIZING THE INTRODUCTION
OF THE ORGAN DONATION RE-
FERRAL IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my thoughts on how we can improve and expedite the organ donation referral process.

I am proud to co-lead the bipartisan Organ Donation Referral Improvement Act with Representative WITTMAN. The critical legislation will help us understand how the broad adoption of automated electronic organ donor referrals in health systems could help more Americans receive the gift of life.

There are over 100,000 Americans in need of a lifesaving organ transplant. To reduce that number and save more lives, we must improve and modernize the organ transplant process. Modernizing the standard practice—manually notifying organ procurement of potential deceased donors—with an automatic electronic system could lift the reporting burden from busy hospital staff, reduce the risk of human error, and ensure every potential organ donor is referred. This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to study the potential for automated electronic donor referrals, reducing the barriers to successful organ transplantation and ultimately saving lives.

The Organ Donation Referral Improvement Act will support the lifesaving mission of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) located in the historic Jackson Ward in the Fourth District of Virginia. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to advance this legislation.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S69–S81

Measures Introduced: Thirty-two bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 38–69, and S. Res. 18–19. **Pages S78–80**

Measures Passed:

Honoring the Life of President Jimmy Carter: Senate agreed to S. Res. 19, honoring the life and legacy of President Jimmy Carter and commending President Jimmy Carter for his life-long career of public service, humanitarian leadership, diplomacy, and courageous advocacy. **Page S76**

Measures Considered:

Laken Riley Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 5, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft. **Pages S69–76**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 84 yeas to 9 nays (Vote No. 1), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S73**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, January 13, 2025, Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, post-

cloture; and that all post-cloture time expire at 5:30 p.m., and Senate vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S81**

Resignation of Senator J.D. Vance: Senator J.D. Vance, of Ohio, submitted a letter of resignation from the United States Senate, effective January 9, 2025, in order to prepare for the duties as Vice President of the United States. **Page S76**

Messages from the House: **Page S77**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S77–78**

Executive Communications: **Page S78**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S80**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S80–81**

Additional Statements: **Page S77**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—1) **Page S73**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 1 p.m. and adjourned at 5:02 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, January 13, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S81.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 90 public bills, H.R. 241–330; and 14 resolutions, H.J. Res. 13–16; and H. Res. 21–30, were introduced. **Pages H87–91**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H94**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Strong to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H65**

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 21, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H67**

House Office Building Commission—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following members of the House to the House Office Building Commission: Representatives Scalise and Jeffries. **Page H67**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:42 a.m. and reconvened at 11:45 a.m. **Page H74**

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 22, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Pages H74–75**

Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act: The House passed H.R. 23, to impose sanctions with respect to the International Criminal Court engaged in any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person of the United States and its allies, by a yea-and-nay vote of 243 yeas to 240 nays, Roll No. 7. **Pages H67–74, H75–76**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, January 13, 2025 for morning-hour debate. **Page H76**

Presidential Message: Received a message from the President transmitting a notification of the issuance of an Executive Order in order to take additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001, as amended by Executive Order 13304 of May 28,

2003, and expanded in scope by Executive Order 14033 of June 8, 2021—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 119–6). **Page H67**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on page H75.

Adjournment: The House met at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, January 13

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Monday, January 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 5, Laken Riley Act, post-cloture, and vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

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