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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 11 a.m.

Senate

TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025

The Senate met at 3 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.

Almighty God, Architect and Creator of our destinies, we marvel at Your power, majesty, and might. From the beginning, Your grace has underlain the foundations of our lives; so we ask that You would lead us in the paths of Your purposes.

Lord, today, awaken in our lawmakers the ability to see the opportunities that exist in the challenges they face. May this knowledge motivate them to move forward with faith and optimism. Show them unused resources that can be mobilized to solve problems and to make dreams come true.

Lord, when they experience doubts and uncertainties, give them the wisdom to ask You for guidance that will save them from all false choices.

And, Lord, remember all who are involved in the catastrophic storm in Texas.

We pray in Your merciful 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. BANKS). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

AFGHAN EVACUEES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, since 2021, I sounded the alarm about the former Biden administration's failure to vet Afghan evacuees. Instead of coming clean, the previous administration dismissed and failed to answer my oversight request.

For years, the Biden administration hid from the American people known vulnerabilities in the vetting process that goes under the names of Operation Allies Welcome and Operation Allies Refuge. The Department of Homeland Security inspector general eventually exposed those vetting failures, and, just last month, so too did the Department of Justice inspector general. Both inspectors general substantiated vetting failures that I have raised for years.

Recently, I was informed by the Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard of new information. My office has been told that of the more than 100,000 Afghan evacuees, as of August 2022, 1.6 percent had links to terrorism

or other derogatory information. It happens that that is over 1,600 people who, at that time, posed a potential threat to our homeland and our people.

At that time, all 1,600 were located in the United States. Now, naturally, since then, some may have left, some may have been deported, and it is unclear who remains.

Based on past briefings provided by the FBI, it is clear they began to investigate these evacuees years ago. I strongly urge the current FBI and intelligence community leadership to aggressively investigate those evacuees who require it and bring these matters to a close.

I am also calling on the Trump administration to ensure that its findings are declassified to the fullest extent possible. Why? Because the public has a right to be made aware—in fact, fully aware—of the Biden administration's failure to vet Afghan evacuees.

Transparency brings accountability, and in this case, that transparency is important because it is a matter of public safety.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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.

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



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RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CENTRAL TEXAS FLOODS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I just want to say that I join Americans around the country in praying for the victims of the torrential flooding in Texas this weekend. More than 100 have been reported dead—among them, at least 28 children. It is a moment of unfathomable pain for so many, and my prayers are with the grieving parents and the grieving families.

I am grateful for the efforts of the rescue workers, military members, and volunteers who put themselves in harm's way to rescue flood victims. And it would be wrong to acknowledge rescuers without also mentioning the everyday Americans who died in the floods trying to save others, like the camp director who died trying to get his campers to safety.

The Scriptures say:

A greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

These are the people we would all hope to be at the moment of our testing.

Again, my thoughts and prayers are with all the victims of these deadly floods and with those who continue to work to rescue them.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in the runup to last year's elections, Republicans made some promises to the American people. We promised to turn the page on the failures of the last 4 years, to help working families and to get our economy moving, to make our country stronger and more secure. Last week, we delivered legislation that will help fulfill those promises. That starts with permanent tax relief for hard-working Americans.

Back in 2017, during the first Trump administration, Republicans passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, legislation that cut Americans' tax rates, doubled the child tax credit, and nearly doubled the standard deduction. But without action from Congress, a substantial part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act would have expired this year, and that would have meant a huge tax hike for hard-working Americans—some \$2,500 for people in my State of South Dakota.

We were determined not to let that happen—not next year, not ever—and I am proud that our bill permanently extends all of the individual tax relief from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. That means lower tax rates for every income level, permanently, an enhanced \$2,200 child tax credit that is now linked to inflation, and the higher standard deduction.

And we did more than that. We included no tax on overtime, no tax on

tips, an even bigger standard deduction for seniors, and new investment accounts that will help the next generation get a running start on their American dream. In a word, the American people will be able to keep more of their hard-earned money instead of sending it to the Federal Government in Washington, and they will have the freedom to spend, invest, and save more of their own money how they see fit.

In addition to providing permanent relief for American families, our bill is about getting our economy moving again. The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act had our economy firing on all cylinders: more jobs, higher wages, companies large and small investing in America. The 2017 tax cuts transformed the Tax Code so that it would encourage growth, and it worked, but not all of that reform was permanent until now.

Now, with the bill we passed last week, all of the 2017 pro-growth reforms are a permanent fixture of our Tax Code. That includes lower rates for small- and medium-sized businesses, the job-creating 199A small business deduction, and investment incentives that free up cash for small businesses, farmers, and ranchers to invest in their operations and in their employees. And, once again, we went even further than the 2017 reforms. We included full expensing for new factories and factory improvements to fuel economic growth and made-in-America goods and jobs.

And we included an even higher death tax threshold that will spare more family farms, ranches, and businesses from a potentially devastating tax, not to mention the expense of planning for it.

Any bill that is about a stronger, more prosperous America would be incomplete if it didn't make America's farmers and ranchers stronger. Agriculture is the lifeblood of this country, but the last few years have been incredibly challenging for our agricultural producers. Our bill tackles those challenges head-on by bolstering programs that farmers and ranchers depend upon. It raises reference prices for every covered commodity; it expands crop insurance coverage and affordability; and it supports risk management, disaster assistance, conservation programs, and critical research and disease prevention programs that are essential to a robust agriculture sector.

With this bill, Republicans are also making America more secure. We are ending the era of open borders by making a generational investment in border security. We are finally finishing the border wall. We are hiring more border agents and giving them the tools they need to keep illegal immigrants and illegal drugs out of our country. And we are hiring more ICE officers and enhancing our capacity to detain and deport criminal illegal immigrants who have taken up residence in our country.

We are also making a major investment to bolster our national defense and build a military that can defeat the threats of today and tomorrow. We are boosting shipbuilding, expanding our Air Force fleet, and investing in drones and counterdrone technology. We are restoring our defense production capacity so that we can make more munitions here in America. We are protecting the homeland with missile defense and nuclear modernization—and more. Our bill is no substitute for robust yearly defense funding, but it gives us a head start on the long-term investments necessary to turn our readiness deficiencies around and ensure that America's military is the strongest in the world for years to come.

One often overlooked part of our national security is our energy security, and our legislation will help ensure that America has a reliable and affordable energy supply for the long term. Our bill also helps deliver on Republicans' promise of a smaller and smarter government. Our bill achieves \$1½ trillion in Byrd-compliant savings, including the first real entitlement reform in decades—reform that will put the programs in question on a more sustainable path for today's recipients and for tomorrow's.

I am proud that Republicans are delivering on our promises to the American people, and I can't wait to see our policies begin working to help build a safer, a stronger, and a more prosperous country. It is going to be great. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

CENTRAL TEXAS FLOODS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, the Senate's thoughts and prayers are with all the victims' families and communities devastated by the flash floods in Texas.

The reports from Texas were both heartbreaking and terrifying at the same time—water rising over 25 feet in a matter of minutes, entire buildings and homes swept away, hundreds of people stranded.

As of this morning, 105 people have died during the floods—27 children. To see the pictures of those children, the little beautiful faces, which I saw published in one of our New York papers this morning, just breaks your heart and stays with you—and the agony, of

course, of those in their families who survived.

Of course, the search continues for many more, and we hope and pray more will be found alive. I thank all of the first responders on the ground. And we all hope for the best in the ongoing rescue and recovery efforts.

Now, when a tragedy as devastating as the one in Texas occurs, the American people deserve to know what happened, what more could have been done to minimize the tragedy, and what we can do better to prevent this from happening again. That means taking a close look what went wrong, if anything, at the Agency level. So, yesterday, I asked for an investigation into what role, if any, the administration's staff cuts to local National Weather Service stations played in preparedness and response to the Texas tragedy.

We also must look forward as communities rebuild, as families mourn. We must ensure the Federal Government has all the resources in place to aid those in need, and that means holding off against devastating cuts to Agencies like FEMA.

As recently as last month, Donald Trump talked about "wean[ing] off" FEMA and has toyed with eliminating the Agency entirely as soon as this year. That would be a mistake at any time, but in light of these horrible floods, it is unthinkable that Donald Trump would do something like put FEMA's future in doubt.

As communities rebuild, today would be a good day for Donald Trump to back away from his threats to dismantle FEMA. Any one of us who has visited these terrible hurricanes and floods and so much other in terms of natural destruction sees the job FEMA does. They are dedicated, they are hard-working, and they are there for people at the exact time people desperately need them. To eliminate this Agency? It speaks to someone who doesn't know anything about what they do.

We all know that nothing can bring back the lives of those who perished, but the administration can and must ensure it takes every step, including funding FEMA—not eliminating it, not cutting it in two-thirds, but funding it fully—the administration must do that to ensure that it takes every step possible to prevent a tragedy like this from happening again.

RESCISSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the July work period and rescissions—this July 4, Donald Trump and Republicans wreaked havoc on our country. On a day when Americans are supposed to celebrate our independence and our blessings as citizens of this great Nation, Donald Trump signed one of the most destructive pieces of legislation in modern history—the biggest giveaway to billionaires ever, the biggest cuts to Medicaid, devastation to our healthcare economy and America's

clean energy economy, with millions of projected job losses—so many job losses that it could well cause us to fall into recession. When it is harder to find jobs, more people get fired, and prices go up.

This vote will haunt our Republican colleagues. It will haunt them every time a rural hospital closes. It will haunt them every time seniors are unable to get home care. It will haunt them as premiums go up, as the uninsured rates spike, as kids go hungry, as jobs disappear, and as our adversaries grow stronger while America grows weaker.

Frankly, many Republicans knew perfectly well their own bill would hurt people back at home. Yet they voted yes anyway. Why? It is simple to answer that. Why did they vote yes anyway when they knew it was wrong? Because they are afraid of Donald Trump.

Now we return to session at the start of a new work period. Very soon, Senate Republicans are expected to bring to the floor at Donald Trump's behest a so-called rescissions package that will gut critical investments in public broadcasting and weaken America's standing abroad, on a simple majority vote—not the 60 votes required traditionally as appropriations bills move forward. Will Senate Republicans bow down to Donald Trump yet again or will they actually show backbone and stand up for their constituents?

These investments were negotiated on a bipartisan basis between Democrats and Republicans as part of the government funding process, and with a simple majority vote, Republicans could take away the investments they all voted for—many of them voted for and renege on their word and spoil—the bipartisan appropriations process. That is a road Senate Republicans would be wise not to go down.

If Republicans cave to Donald Trump and gut these investments agreed to by both parties, that would be an affront—a huge affront—to the bipartisan appropriations process. It is absurd to expect Democrats to play along with funding the government if Republicans are just going to renege on a bipartisan agreement by concocting rescissions packages behind closed doors that can pass with only their votes—not the customary 60 votes required in the appropriations process. The 60-vote process almost always ensures bipartisanship.

Worse, there are alarming reports that Donald Trump plans to bring additional rescissions packages down the line to codify the DOGE. These rescissions may be small compared to the rescissions they will put on the floor later. Look at the new budget that Trump has proposed.

There have also been reports that OMB Director Russell Vought—and perhaps the President himself—promised hard-right Republicans in the House additional cuts on programs they detest as a way to secure the votes for their big, ugly bill. These cuts

may be unlawful if the reports prove true.

This is not a bait and switch; it is a bait and poison to kill. It is not a bait and switch; it is a bait and poison to kill. This is deeply troubling and will threaten to further poison bipartisanship—a crucial ingredient for this institution to function.

I urge Senate Republicans to press "pause" on their partisan rescission package and instead work with Democrats on a bipartisan appropriations process to fund the government. That bipartisan process has begun in the Appropriations Committee, and I am hopeful more progress will be made later this week as the committee begins their markups on the first three bills.

So, again, Senate Republicans have a choice to make. They can keep bowing to Donald Trump. They can continue walking on eggshells, trying not to upset him, giving him what he wants even at the cost of breaking the law and hurting the people back home. Or they can do their jobs. They can stand up to Donald Trump and reject this rescission package that would gut funding for critical programs with a simple majority vote. They can work with Democrats on a bipartisan, good-faith negotiation to fund the government later this year.

This is not just about one rescission package. This is not just about one appropriations process, as important as those are. This is about the role of Congress as a coequal branch with the Executive, as the Founding Fathers proposed. Most importantly, this is about protecting the well-being of Americans back home.

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the VA workforce—Donald Trump and Secretary Collins are manufacturing a cynical staffing crisis at the Veterans' Administration.

Earlier this year, we learned that Secretary Collins announced plans for a wide-scale, 80,000-plus employee reduction of the workforce at the VA, putting the well-being of our veterans at immediate risk. There was never any transparency for these plans, and many of the decisions were clearly done haphazardly, without thinking through the consequences.

Yesterday, the VA released another alarming announcement, saying they are on pace to lose 30,000 staffers without having to resort to a reduction in force—as if that made things better. They proposed 80,000, and because of huge pressure—mainly from our veterans and our veterans groups—they backed off. But make no mistake about it, a cut of 30,000 will decimate the ability of the VA to provide good healthcare to our veterans, who have risked their lives for us.

Secretary Collins is making the VA so toxic that workers are leaving on their own. The workers—I have talked

to so many of them—are dedicated to helping our veterans, and when they see the administration just slashing and burning the VA without any concern for the consequences or why people were fired—the bottom line is still this: Thanks to Donald Trump and Secretary Collins, tens of thousands of highly skilled workers are exiting the VA, and our veterans are the ones that suffer.

I have heard this from veterans over and over again. One story sticks out in my mind. A woman who served in Afghanistan got PTSD and was treated at the VA hospital near Buffalo, and then, because she saw the dedication of those VA workers, she became an employee. She worked really hard. She was dedicated to the veterans. She knew she could probably make more money in another job. But she got home one Friday night and saw on her computer “You are RIF’d”—which means you are fired—with no reason why and not even a chance to come back into the office to pick up her mementos she had there—pictures of her loved ones.

Donald Trump likes to pretend that he cares about our armed services members and veterans, but actions speak louder than words, and Donald Trump’s actions when it comes to sabotaging the VA are disgusting. And the worst part about what is happening at the VA is the timing. While Donald Trump creates a staffing crisis at the VA, his big, ugly bill will jeopardize Medicaid coverage for veterans as well as shut down hospitals that serve veterans and thereby put even more strain on the VA. It is a vicious cycle, a cynical double whammy where veterans pay the ultimate price for Donald Trump’s cruelty.

The administration should immediately reverse course and refill these positions and make sure the VA operates at full capacity.

NOMINATION OF BRYAN BEDFORD

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, on the nomination of Bedford to the FAA, later this evening, Senate Republicans will vote to advance Donald Trump’s nominee to lead the FAA, Bryan Bedford.

To say that Mr. Bedford is a deeply flawed nominee would be putting it mildly. Throughout his career as an airline executive and during his hearing, Mr. Bedford has shown a callous disregard for the 1,500-hour rule and even refused to commit to protecting the rule if confirmed.

I worked long and hard with the families of Flight 3407, years ago, to establish the 1,500-hour rule after they lost all their loved ones on a tragic plane crash that occurred on a winter’s night in Western New York. They have worked so hard, and they are so proud of their accomplishments. In the face of unspeakable loss, they worked relentlessly to change America’s aviation laws to prevent a tragedy like that that happened to their families.

Today, the 1,500-hour rule is the gold standard for pilot training. So affirming the 1,500-hour rule should be the easiest thing in the world for someone nominated to oversee the FAA, but Mr. Bedford failed again and again to do so.

Weakening the 1,500-hour rule is dangerous and could cost lives. With aviation safety top of mind, Americans don’t want pilots with less training, which would happen if the 1,500-hour rule were not extended, were repealed or not enforced.

Americans don’t want the FAA weakening safety standards, but I fear that is precisely what Mr. Bedford will do: weaken the 1,500-hour rule, weaken safety standards, and prioritize profits over passenger safety.

The American people deserve far better than an FAA Administrator who isn’t fully committed to their safety. The Senate should reject Mr. Bedford’s nomination.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Democratic whip.

CENTRAL TEXAS FLOODS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, summer camp is a great memory for so many of us. You think about the good times we had, at the right moment in life, with a lot of friends, learning the basics of swimming, archery, target shooting, and other things, like camping out—memories you carry for a lifetime, wonderful memories, a rite of passage for many individuals and families, a family tradition passed on to younger siblings and, ultimately, to our own children and grandchildren.

There are so many images in our minds, over the last several days, as to the tragedy that occurred in Central Texas. I know I speak for millions of Americans when I say we are heartbroken over the flash floods that devastated Central Texas this past weekend.

Early Friday morning, while most were fast asleep, a foot of rain fell onto Texas Hill Country. This deluge floated to the Guadalupe River, causing it to rise by 26 feet in 45 minutes—26 feet in 45 minutes.

Near the Guadalupe, a girls sleep away camp, Camp Mystic, which had been there for 99 years, was all but destroyed by the floods. Already, that camp has confirmed that 27 of their campers and counselors died in that flood—27.

I send my deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of those campers and counselors.

Tragically, the flooding in Texas continues to take lives. More than 100 peo-

ple have perished. That number is expected to grow, sadly, in the coming days.

In the midst of this disaster, I am heartened by the kindness and courage shown by the first responders and volunteers. Twenty separate agencies, at every level of government, have come together to help save lives. At Camp Mystic, the counselors, many of whom had just graduated from high school, risked their own lives to save younger campers. We will never forget that bravery.

This disaster has impacted people of both political faiths—Republicans and Democrats—and Independents as well.

I want to say this, and I say this on reflection of my career in the House and the Senate: I have never, to my knowledge—never—voted against disaster assistance for people in other States than my home State of Illinois. There, but for the grace of God, go my people that I represent. And I would hope that the Senate and the House would stand together, Democrats and Republicans, and say we are going to be there for the victims of this disaster.

I pray that we find the missing loved ones and that we take the necessary steps to stop another tragedy like this from occurring.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this weekend, across the country, we observed our Nation’s 249th Independence Day, a day intended to celebrate a government of, by, and for the people, in Lincoln’s words. But this Independence Day was anything but a celebration in one respect, and that is because, this Fourth of July, the President and congressional Republicans decided to sign their so-called Big Beautiful Bill, and in so doing, they retreated from the values that our Founders etched in the Declaration, “that all Men are created equal,” not just the wealthy and well-connected.

Americans across this Nation overwhelmingly oppose this bill—and for good reason. You see, this bill signed by the President on the Fourth of July is the largest cut in healthcare and the largest cut in nutrition assistance in history, slashing more than \$1 trillion from healthcare programs like Medicaid and \$200 billion from the SNAP program.

Seventeen million Americans will lose their health insurance. Health insurance premiums will rise for another 20 million Americans. Three million people will have food taken off the table, including kids, seniors, and veterans.

I can’t understand the celebration of the facts that I have just read.

I have heard misstatements. One misstatement was: Don’t worry. The people we take off Medicaid will be the illegal immigrants.

They are not eligible for Medicaid, and they are certainly not in that calculation of 17 million Americans.

Why do we do these things? Why would any government do these things to so many innocent people?

In this case, very simply, it is to give tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans and the biggest corporations. The richest Americans will be seeing \$400,000 more in tax cuts in their pockets every year because of this legislation. I don't know how their lifestyle—if you are a millionaire or something like that and you get a tax break of \$400,000, what does that money do to change your life?

Well, I can tell you this: One thing that will change your life forever is to face a dramatic medical challenge in your family and not have health insurance to cover you. I have been there, and I have lived through that. It is something you never wish on anyone. And yet 17 million Americans, unfortunately, will lose their health insurance under this bill, the Big Beautiful Bill, signed by President Trump.

Despite a last-ditch effort—there was a failing attempt at buying votes and pretending to care about rural areas, like my area of Downstate Illinois—more than 300 rural hospitals and 500 nursing homes may be forced to close because of these cutbacks in Medicaid. That is because this Big Beautiful Bill cripples the Medicaid Program that keeps our rural hospitals and communities afloat. That includes HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield, IL, where Medicaid pays for 53 percent of the hospitalization; St. Mary's Hospital in Centralia, IL, where Medicaid pays for 42 percent of hospitalizations; and OSF St. Clare Hospital in Princeton, IL, where Medicaid covers 45 percent of the hospitalizations.

The administrators in these hospitals have warned us that this could be the breaking point. Many of these hospitals barely survive, barely keep their doors open. Now, all of these hospitals—already operating on the margins—may face impossible decisions to scale back services. For what? To pay for tax breaks for the wealthiest people in this country.

Aside from hospitals, there is also going to be a major consequence on American energy. I commend to my colleagues and those who are following this debate, in today's New York Times, an article by Thomas Friedman. He talks about the impact on energy from the decisions made by the signing of this bill.

This bill kills solar, wind, and EV tax credits enjoyed by companies and consumers alike, all but ceding the future of electricity to China and risking billions of dollars of investments in renewable energy—ironically, mostly in Republican States.

While working families grapple with the consequences of these cuts, they are going to see the family home expenses increase by \$1,000 a year. Utility bills are going up because of this bill—this bill signed by the President, the Big Beautiful Bill.

The Chicago Tribune recently shared a story of Isaiah Rogers, a 61-year-old

man who lives in the West Pullman neighborhood in Chicago. Several years ago, Isaiah was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. As a result of this diagnosis, he has not been able to return to his job, trimming trees, and has been working small side jobs. Medicaid pays for Isaiah's doctor visits and his insulin.

A single father without a high school degree, Isaiah is concerned that the bill's cuts and changes to Medicaid will result in his losing his health coverage. And if Isaiah loses Medicaid, he will no longer be able to afford his insulin and other medications. He may face a diabetic complication or coma or even suffer a stroke. What will that mean to his 12-year-old son?

It is unconscionable to think that the other party would pull the plug on lifesaving health coverage and deny food to our most needy children, but that is exactly what they voted for and celebrated on July 4.

As Republicans moved this megabill through Congress, Democrats did our best, in the minority, to push back. Over the course of 27 hours, Senate Democrats forced votes on many amendments to put Republicans on notice and show their constituents what their real positions are on issues. It was the longest vote-arama in the history of the Senate. It included putting Republicans on the record, voting against nursing home care, home healthcare, food assistance for children of veterans, protections for Medicaid, clean energy jobs—and the list goes on. And an expansion of the child tax credit, an idea that has proven successful—all that was sacrificed to give billionaires tax cuts instead.

In the end, three sensible Senate Republicans looked at this ugly betrayal of a bill and agreed they couldn't be part of the process. I commend them. But, sadly, three votes on the other side of the aisle wasn't enough. We needed one more.

And who swooped in to cast his vote—the decisive vote? Vice President VANCE. He showed up at the last minute and cast a tie-breaking vote in the Senate to push the bill across the finish line.

A few short years ago, then-Vice President Harris broke a tie in this very Chamber to pass the largest climate investment bill in history and to lower prescription drug prices for millions of Americans—what a sharp contrast. This Vice President cast a deciding vote that will be painful for so many families across America, and he could have done so much more and so much better for the people of this Nation. That is the difference in priorities. In politics, it basically boils down to: Whose side are you on?

As the effects of this bill take shape and slither their way through our communities, our Republican colleagues will have to look their constituents in the eyes and explain their votes. They will have to explain to a farmer who now must drive an additional 50 miles

to the nearest hospital why they had to shut the community hospital doors. They will have to explain to the grandmother at a nursing home why her care is being slimmed down or eliminated because of cutbacks to Medicaid. They will have to explain to the young mother preparing to have a baby why there is no longer a maternity ward in her county.

This bill flies in the face of American values that we celebrate on the Fourth of July and everything we stand for. The other party has a lot of explaining to do, and the American people are going to face the consequences.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

WHISTLEBLOWERS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I would like to address a whistleblower complaint that I received the morning before Emil Bove's nomination hearing. That is the complaint that was given to the New York Times for them to report on it the very same morning.

One group has publicly accused this chairman of the Judiciary Committee of undermining that whistleblower. That group also said:

I used to be a champion of whistleblowers.

Then the whistleblower and his lawyers took part in a political hit piece on my handling of this situation, and so now my Democratic colleagues have all of a sudden found whistleblowers to be of benefit to them.

Let me be absolutely clear. I appreciate the whistleblower's disclosure being sent to my office. My door is open to anyone, but that doesn't mean that I am going to jump at every allegation in a way that some may want this Senator to do. So let me respond with a very short history lesson.

Last Congress, during the Biden administration, I worked to protect many whistleblowers, as I have throughout my Senate career. I recall with pride the work that I did during the Reagan administration with Department of Defense whistleblowers.

In some cases, my whistleblower work never sees the light of day because the situation demands nonpublic attention. In other cases, publicity is required.

In my efforts to protect the IRS whistleblowers who came forward during the previous administration, my Democratic colleagues didn't join me. In my efforts to protect the Department of Homeland Security whistleblowers, my Democratic colleagues refused to join me.

And those whistleblowers even disclosed problematic conduct during the Trump administration, conduct which that administration actually tried to fix.

In my efforts to protect Health and Human Services' whistleblowers, my Democratic colleagues didn't join me in that effort either.

Last year, I hosted two oversight roundtables, one on the Biden administration's failure to protect unaccompanied children from trafficking, another on the Biden administration's failure to collect DNA at the border, resulting in Americans being subjected to senseless crimes from illegals.

At that roundtable, the witnesses said that Rachel Morin's murder by an illegal could have been prevented had his DNA been taken by the border people, as required under law.

At both of these roundtables, my whistleblowers testified. On both roundtables, not a single Democrat attended, even though I invited them to come.

During Trump's first term, I made a public statement that it appeared the Ukraine complaint followed whistleblower laws. I said that even though I had serious concerns about the complaint's substantive legitimacy—concerns which have been proven right over time. Now, at that particular time, Democratic groups praised me.

During Trump's first term, I investigated Russian collusion, then-Ranking Member Feinstein joined me in that effort. We and our staffs interviewed Donald Trump, Jr., and other Republicans. As we found out, there was nothing there.

And what ended up happening is the exposure of the Clinton campaign and Democratic National Committee paying for the fake Steele dossier.

Yet, with overwhelming evidence of Biden family corruption, my Democratic colleagues didn't do any investigation of that matter. And when I say "overwhelming," I made bank records public proving the case, and it was still crickets from the other side.

During the Kavanaugh nomination, many alleged whistleblowers came forward. I directed my oversight and investigative staffs to dig in: 45 witnesses were interviewed, 25 written statements, and an over 400-page report.

Some of those witnesses were sent to us by my Democrat colleagues. The conclusion of that, no evidence to support the allegations that were brought forward against Kavanaugh. Indeed, what ended up happening were several criminal referrals for felonious lies from these same witnesses. This committee made four criminal referrals for materially false statements and obstruction, two of these four referrals also included criminal conspiracy.

One witness was referred to my staff by a fellow Senator who also referred that witness to a reporter. That witness's information was used to question Kavanaugh under oath. That witness later publicly admitted that they lied.

When individuals provide fabricated allegations, it diverts committee resources when other time-sensitive investigations are ongoing. Resources were diverted away from whistleblowers to handle the Kavanaugh matter. Such conduct impedes the Senate's work. During Kavanaugh, my investigative staff spent hours, days, and many weeks investigating one claim after another.

So getting back to the matter I opened with, Emil Bove, my first question to him at a public hearing was directly about the whistleblower complaint that my staff received the very single day before the hearing.

So the nominee, Mr. Bove, denied the allegations under oath. The Deputy Attorney General has denied the allegations publicly. Two high-level principals have made outright denials publicly. The whistleblower also signed papers acknowledging the Justice Department had complied with court orders. So right now that is the state of the play.

Every day my office receives many whistleblower cases. My investigative staff study them and run down the facts.

There are many government employees who need help. And just this year, I have had a lot of success with whistleblowers that were discriminated against, investigated against, maybe fired, maybe put on administrative leave. But in most cases, it was all an attempt to hurt them professionally, besides being out of a job.

So in regard to the IRS whistleblowers, they were finally helped—one of whom is a Democrat. My Department of Homeland Security whistleblowers got their guns, badges, and retirement back. On another example, I spent significant time helping FBI whistleblowers, and it appears their cases are trending in the right direction.

And guess what. One of those whistleblowers is also a Democrat.

I would always welcome more bipartisan oversight. It is just that the Democrats apparently don't want to join my efforts.

So when I read unfounded public broadsides about my operation in that political piece I have already referred to, let what I said today be a reminder of my dedication to helping the whistleblower community. And let me also remind everyone that sometimes what I do to protect whistleblowers is non-public, as it should be. And I don't care about that. All I care about are the results of helping whistleblowers and bringing attention to the wrong that the whistleblowers say are wrong within our government.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 64.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Jonathan Gould, of Virginia, to be Comptroller of the Currency for a term of five years.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 64, Jonathan Gould, of Virginia, to be Comptroller of the Currency for a term of five years.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John R. Curtis, Rick Scott of Florida, Bernie Moreno, Pete Ricketts, Eric Schmitt, Jon A. Husted, Roger Marshall, Jim Justice, Tommy Tuberville, Bill Hagerty, Joni Ernst, James E. Risch, Marsha Blackburn, Tim Sheehy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 261.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Whitney D. Hermandorfer, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 261, Whitney D. Hermandorfer, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

John Thune, Lindsey Graham, Shelley Moore Capito, Ted Budd, Mike Lee, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, Bernie Moreno, Cynthia M. Lummis, Katie Boyd Britt, Eric Schmitt, Roger Marshall, Marsha Blackburn, Markwayne Mullin, Steve Daines, Jim Banks, Chuck Grassley.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to resume Calendar No. 106.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Preston Griffith, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Energy.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, if cloture is invoked on the Griffith nomination, all postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Bedford nomination; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Bedford nomination, all postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Griffith and Bedford nominations at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, no earlier than Wednesday, July 9; further, that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; finally, that the remaining clotures filed on July 1 ripen at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, on Wednesday, July 9.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF BRYAN BEDFORD

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak in opposition to the nomination of Bryan Bedford to serve as the FAA Administrator—the Federal Aviation Administration. Everyone knows that the FAA is at a critical point in its history. The tragic midair collision that we had in DC on January 29 took the lives of 67 people and made it clear what was at stake to all of us.

The National Transportation Safety Board, in their subsequent findings earlier this year, said that over 15,000 close calls took place around DCA over the past 3 years alone, demonstrating that we and the aviation industry have much more work to do to raise the safety bar.

The FAA and its workforce are facing historic challenges. Within weeks of the DCA crash, the Trump administration fired hundreds of FAA officials, including technical operations staff who help make it possible for air traffic controllers to do their jobs and specialists who design FAA route flight maps.

With air traffic system outages and a clear directive from Congress to implement stronger safety regulations, career officials with decades of aviation experience have been pushed to leave. Just to be clear, I am referring to the fact that we passed an FAA 5-year authorization, and we said we need stronger safety regulations, and we need more hands-on experience, not shortcuts for the individuals that are helping us implement safety plans.

As a result, senior leaders at multiple FAA lines of business have already left or are in the process of leaving, and the FAA has lost about 3 percent of its workforce—more than 1,200 employees—to the deferred resignation program.

An FAA presentation obtained by the Wall Street Journal in May revealed that the FAA is internally sounding the alarm about the impacts from those staffing shortages. The presentation warned that the Agency's ability to work on runway safety, process medical clearances for air traffic controllers, and fulfill its statutory and regulatory requirements were all at risk.

The next FAA Administrator will have an overarching mission that will be a huge challenge: ensuring the United States remains the global gold standard for aviation safety. And in order to keep 2.9 million commercial airline passengers safe each day, the next Administrator must prioritize investing in the FAA safety workforce.

These challenges underscore why we should have an Administrator who is willing to strengthen the safety standards, instead of seeking ways to get around them. When we look at the record of aviation safety, Mr. Bedford has been on the frontlines, obviously working in the aviation sector, but also in a frontline effort to roll back safety reforms and unravel the regulatory framework that has made the United States the gold standard.

Since 1999, Mr. Bedford has been the president and CEO of Republic Airways, one of the largest regional airlines in North America. And for over a decade, he has consistently fought to change the FAA's 1,500-hour rule, which is a key safety provision that was implemented in 2013 following the tragic crash of a regional jet—Colgan Air Flight 3407 near Buffalo, NY, that killed 49 people.

The rule sets strong pilot training and first officer qualification standards to ensure that both pilots have the appropriate experience to react to in an in-flight emergency. Instead of recognizing how this rule was developed through the public debate and notice and comment period, Mr. Bedford has called it arbitrary. That means the FAA went through a very big process, but Mr. Bedford thinks that was "arbitrary" and "does nothing to further the goal of increased flight safety."

Mr. Bedford has then led a trade association that spent millions of dollars lobbying against the 1,500-hour rule and other pilot training policies, including as recently as the first quarter of this year. And in 2022, Mr. Bedford's company petitioned the FAA for an exemption from the 1,500-hour rule. That effort failed, but as head of the FAA, he will be in the very job that he basically tried to lobby to say, Let's weaken safety standard rules.

The effort that Mr. Bedford tried when he was in the private sector failed, but as I said, as the head of FAA, he could hold power over the Agency to weaken what has become a very bedrock 1,500-hour to help us make sure that both pilots and copilots are appropriately trained.

My colleagues and I gave Mr. Bedford multiple chances in our Commerce Committee nomination hearing to tell us that he, if confirmed, would not weaken that rule, but he repeatedly refused to give us an answer or commitment. To me, that was the evidence that I needed to understand, if the 1,500-hour rule, which has been in place since the Colgan Air tragedy, could be at risk if Mr. Bedford were confirmed.

Mr. Bedford would not commit to recusing himself from ruling on his own company's exemption request from the 1,500-hour rule for the entirety of his 5-year term as FAA Administrator. In other words, he could decide to grant his own company an exemption, the same thing he tried to do when he was in the private sector lobbying the FAA.

Mr. Bedford's hearing testimony was so concerning that the Colgan Air Flight 3407 families have publicly opposed his nomination. These are families who have become the bedrock of safety. They move forward with their lives, but they also come to Capitol Hill each year to protect aviation safety standards.

The families said that Mr. Bedford's clear aim to weaken the 1,500-hour rule "sends the wrong message to every American passenger and every family that has ever boarded a domestic flight."

This represents, I think, a very big challenge for us right now. Too often, carriers operating under tight profit margins and resource constraints focus on reactive measures rather than proactive safety improvements. What we need is a proactive Administrator. We need somebody who is fighting for the safety improvements to prevent

the accidents in the first place. And at this critical moment, we need an FAA Administrator who will break from this reactive safety culture and provide the proactive safety leadership that we need to prevent problems before they happen.

Even Captain “Sully” Sullenberger, the pilot who performed the Miracle on the Hudson, is also opposing Mr. Bedford’s nomination. Captain Sullenberger recognized that Mr. Bedford “is not willing to uphold the critically important pilot experience requirements put in place in 2010 that have been so effective in ensuring the safety of the traveling public.” He went on to warn that:

With the nomination of Bryan Bedford to be the FAA Administrator, my life’s work could be undone.

I am sure that Captain Sullenberger understands the importance of having two pilots. At a hearing before the Commerce Committee, when I asked him about the 1,500-hour rule, he said:

In an emergency, you really don’t even have time to talk. The two pilots both need to be doing their jobs and doing it well.

So Mr. Bedford has also signaled an openness to something else I have concern about, green-lighting a single pilot on commercial flights. This is a real issue. The FAA’s European civil aviation authority counterpart EASA is thinking about certifying extended single pilot operations on commercial aircraft. That means it is being debated in Europe and could be debated in other places. That is right; they are debating whether to have just one pilot on a long-haul flight.

In 2019, when Mr. Bedford was discussing the emerging technologies underpinning single pilot operations, he said:

Does it work? It works. Can it work highly, reliably, and safely? I think it can.

Well, you don’t have to be an expert in understanding the risk of flying with just one pilot. In the past, aviation incidents have been documented by the NTSB—the National Transportation Safety Board—and they have cited that pilot incapacity or mental health emergencies as justifications for requiring two pilots on a commercial flight.

I don’t care how good the technology is; if an emergency happens, we need two well-trained pilots on the flight deck at all times. Mr. Bedford has been given many opportunities to talk about these past statements and how he sees the world. But again, he did not do so.

When his company sought an exemption from the 1,500-hour rule in 2022, they championed diversity initiatives, saying they would have “no adverse impact on safety.” But when asked by Senator LUJÁN at the committee if he thought so-called “DEI” policies contributed to the collision near DCA earlier this year—which President Trump baselessly alleged—Mr. Bedford said he had “no earthly idea.” This inconsistency is troubling.

So we need to make sure that we are selecting a nominee who has a track

record of supporting a proactive FAA. Mr. Bradbury, the Deputy Transportation Secretary, is implementing “10-for-1” policies—meaning Agencies must eliminate 10 regulations for every new one. DOT officials can now face disciplinary action if they don’t comply with the administration’s decision not to enforce certain regulations. The Washington Post has characterized this move as “a chilling effect on enforcement.” And as I said earlier, DOT inspectors and investigators will fear that they could be fired just for doing their job ensuring the safety of the flying public.

We don’t, Mr. President, need a light touch. We need to make sure that while industry concerns are heard, they shouldn’t be the dominant factor. The FAA needs to implement the gold standard for aviation safety.

There are many critical tasks ahead, including implementing a safety management system at the FAA and ensuring that Boeing, after the 737 MAX crashes, also implements its required safety management system. I want to make sure that an Administrator is not going to try to halt that rule, but will get that rule implemented, so that we know that manufacturing and the FAA are making the flying public safer every day by doing their jobs properly.

So, Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to please reject the nomination of Mr. Bedford. I think we need an FAA Administrator who makes really tough decisions that put the priority of the flying public first.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The Senator from Texas.

CENTRAL TEXAS FLOODS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it is with profound sadness that I am here with my colleague Senator CRUZ to discuss the heartbreaking results of the catastrophic floods that occurred in our State, in Central Texas, over the Fourth of July weekend.

As most Texans were sleeping on the morning of July 4, a 100-year flood event caused the waters of the Guadalupe River to rise an astonishing 26 feet in 45 minutes. The loss of life was horrific. One media account said the flow rate of the Guadalupe River went from that of a small stream that you could wade across, at about 10 cubic feet per second, to a raging and destructive torrent of 120,000 cubic feet per second—an amount greater than the average flow rate across Niagara Falls.

We know that the loss of life was not confined to Kerr County, where Kerrville is located, but extended to other counties in Central Texas: Travis County, which is where Austin is located; Williamson County, just north of that; and Burnet County as well.

Of course, some here in the Nation’s Capital and elsewhere are asking: How could this happen, and what, if anything, could we possibly do to prevent a recurrence? We can and we should try to answer those questions but not now. Now we need to focus on recovery ef-

forts that are currently underway and to pray for and to think about the families that are grieving and those whose loved ones are still missing and unaccounted for. For now, I want to focus our attention on the victims and the heroes of this horrible tragedy.

More than 100 people died in Central Texas from this flooding, including 27 young campers—young girls mostly—ranging down to the age of 8 years old, as well as counselors at Camp Mystic, which we have heard so much about, a Christian girls summer camp.

This is a picture of Camp Mystic that I took from a department of public safety helicopter on Saturday morning. It is hard to see, but this is what it looked like from the air.

Ten campers and one counselor are still missing and remain unaccounted for in Kerr County.

As you can imagine, this is a sad time for Texas, and it has brought the Lone Star State to our knees in grief and in prayer. And I am glad to say I have heard so much—and I am sure my colleague has as well—from friends and associates all around the United States sharing their condolences and concerns about what has happened over this last weekend.

While I was in Kerrville this last Saturday, I participated in an aerial tour, as I mentioned, and a car tour of the flooded areas. The damage I witnessed was nothing short of devastating, and this photo shows just some of the destruction that I witnessed there on the ground.

Bridges were washed out. Roads were destroyed. Entire homes were washed down the river. Trees were uprooted, and cars and other wreckage lodged nearly 30 feet up in the air in the trees.

I joined U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Noem, who was there representing the Trump administration, Governor Abbott and Representative CHIP ROY—his district is where this incident is located—and other community leaders for a briefing and a press conference to discuss the combined government response to this disaster from Washington, DC, to the State to local officials.

During this briefing, Governor Abbott described people clinging to trees to save their lives. And I am sure by now, we have seen photos that are circulating on social media that show exactly that—people washed miles down the river, only to be lodged in the trees for extended periods of time, hoping and praying that someone would come to their aid.

I am beyond grateful to the efforts of Governor Abbott, President Trump, and Secretary Noem for their quick response in approving a Federal disaster declaration and ensuring that every available resource is being put forward in the rescue and recovery efforts throughout central Texas.

President Trump and Secretary Noem have been great partners, and I especially appreciate the efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Secretary Noem reminded us all that the number one priority is people. So while there is a lot of damaged property—as you can see—and destruction, damaged public infrastructure, first and foremost, we are united in working around the clock to ensure that as many people as possible are safe and, if possible, reunited with their families.

These rescue efforts at all levels of government have saved the lives of more than 850 people. Now, Texans are known for their tough spirit and their resilience. And this is not the first natural disaster that we have experienced, nor will it be our last. We know how to roll up our sleeves and do what is required to help those in need.

As a father of two daughters myself, my heart breaks for all those who are grieving and especially those who are holding out hope that somehow, someday their loved one may still be found.

On the aerial tour we took over Camp Mystic, many thousands of young girls made friends and grew in their faith and learned important life lessons along the banks of the Guadalupe River, a particularly beautiful and scenic part of our great State. They have done that for nearly a century of this camp's existence.

Now, I cannot imagine what many of these families are going through now as they mourn the loss of 27 of these young campers as well as their adult counselors.

While we try to wrap our heads around this heart-wrenching disaster, we can find some solace, some encouragement in the bravery exhibited by the heroes, some of whom died, helping save these young girls.

Among these is Dick Eastland, who was the director of Camp Mystic with his wife for many decades. Dick died while trying to save the lives of his young campers. Dick's grandson George Eastland described his grandfather as a hero, saying in a post on social media:

Although I am devastated, I can't say I'm surprised. [I'm not surprised] that you sacrificed your life with the hopes of someone else's being saved.

Another young man Julian Ryan lost his life while helping his own family, including a 13-month-old and a 6-year-old, escape from their trailer home as it was being washed away. While he put his two small children on top of a mattress to safely float, he attempted to break a window, cutting an artery in his arm that bled profusely. He was unconscious before help could arrive, but he died shortly thereafter, making sure that his family would live.

His sister said:

He didn't die in vain . . . He died a hero.

These words could not be more true of Julian and of all those whose names and stories we don't even know, who selflessly gave their lives so that others might live.

After another tragedy up I-35 in the small city of West, TX, where Senator CRUZ and I were a little over a decade ago, I remember a county commis-

sioner after the loss of many lives in an unexpected explosion there who said:

Being a Texan doesn't describe where you're from, it describes who your family is.

And that stuck with me and still sticks with me today because when things happen like this, as they invariably do, we all come together as a family.

In the midst of such horrific tragedy, we can find hope and strength in the stories of those who gave their all to help their fellow Texans and the first responders who miraculously saved 850 lives in high-water rescues.

One of those Coast Guard responders was a young man named Scott Ruskan, a rescue swimmer with the U.S. Coast Guard, who singlehandedly saved nearly 170 people. He helped shuttle young girls from the wreckage to the helicopters that brought them to safety, often carrying two of them in one arm. Scott and people like him are true American heroes.

First responders like him embody the spirit of patriotism and love and selfless sacrifice and service to their fellow Americans. The great courage shown by men and women like Scott, Julian, Dick, and others brings to mind the words of President Reagan back in 1981 during a Medal of Honor speech honoring Texas MSG Roy Benavidez for his heroism and courage during the Vietnam war. President Reagan said of the brave prisoners of war returning home—he asked:

Where did we find such men? We find them where we've always found them, in our villages and towns, on our city streets, in our shops, and on our farms.

So as Texans, we are all united in offering our prayers and support for all of the families who have lost loved ones and for those who still remain unaccounted for. My wife Sandy and I will especially keep the parents grieving the loss of their precious children in our prayers.

Mr. President, I would now invite the Senate to observe a moment of silence in honor of the flooding victims, their families, all who died, suffered injuries, who are still unaccounted for after these terrible floods.

(Moment of silence.)

Mr. CORNYN. Thank you. Mr. President, I yield to my colleague from Texas Senator CRUZ.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, Texas is grieving. Our hearts are shattered on what transpired in the early hours of Friday, July 4.

In just a few hours, over 1.8 trillion gallons of rain fell upon central Texas. The Guadalupe River—ordinarily a beautiful, peaceful, calm river—rose nearly 30 feet in less than an hour. The result was utter and complete devastation.

As we stand here today, there are over 100 Texans confirmed to be dead, and that number is still expected to rise. We have 27 girls and counselors confirmed dead from Camp Mystic, and that number, likewise, may well rise.

Many in this body may not be familiar with the Hill Country where this happened. I want to tell you a little bit about it. Hill Country is in central Texas. I love every part of our great State, but I think Hill Country is, by far, the most beautiful part of our State.

As the name suggests, there are rolling hills, beautiful rivers, and for a century, the Hill Country has been a place where young people across Texas have gone to summer camps. There are some 40 summer camps just in Kerr County.

And it has been a place where young girls, young boys go to make friends, to learn independence. Camp Mystic is one of the most storied camps in Texas. It is 100 years old, founded in 1926. For 100 summers, Camp Mystic has hosted girls.

It is a Christian camp, and it trains young girls in teamwork and camaraderie, in independence. And it produces some of the most incredible friendships—lifetime friendships—you have ever seen.

Many Texas summer camps, at the end of what is often a monthlong session, there is a closing ceremony that is typically 1 or 2 days. And I will tell you, it is an incredible thing to see Texas women coming back to these girls' camps, because you will regularly see a grandmother and a mother and a little girl, all of whom attended the same camp.

It is a tradition that has stitched together thousands of Texans all across our great State. I will tell you, for me, this is not abstract and theoretical. This crisis hits very, very close to home for me.

For a decade, my daughters have gone to camp in Kerr County, in Hunt, TX. They have gone to camp just a couple of miles away from Camp Mystic.

Just last week, my wife Heidi was in Hunt picking up my youngest daughter Catherine. She picked her up from camp. It was a wonderful time; it was joyful. This week, hundreds of little girls were dropped off at camp—this previous week—to start their next session, and in the early hours of July 4, the waters came rushing in, and it cost their lives.

I spent all of yesterday in the Hill Country. I met with first responders. I met with people who demonstrated extraordinary heroism. I met with people on the ground.

When this flood first started occurring and we were getting reports of just how bad it was, within hours I was on the phone with Texas Governor Greg Abbott. I was on the phone with Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick. I was on the phone with Nim Kidd, the Texas Director of Emergency Management, and then I called President Trump.

And I told him: It is still early, but the reports we are getting of what is happening in Texas are utterly and completely devastating. This has the

potential to have an enormous loss of life. And I said: It is critical that we have every Federal resource and asset.

I will tell you what President Trump told me, he said: Ted, whatever Texas needs the answer is yes.

And the Federal Government responded. In the hours after the flooding began, there were over a dozen helicopters in the air, coastguardsmen and National Guardsmen, Texas Department of Public Safety. They performed over 850 rescues.

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to meet Coast Guardsman Scott Ruskan. Scott Ruskan saved 165 girls. He helicoptered into Camp Mystic, landed on an open field in a very dangerous landing terrain where many of the girls had gone because it was the highest ground in the camp.

Scott spent 3½ hours in the dark of night with torrential rain pouring down upon him with little girls surrounding him, many of them in their pajamas, many with one shoe. They had been pulled out of bed. Little girls crying, weeping, scared, terrified out of their minds. Some girls singing hymns together.

Scott stayed on the ground with them and helped 165 girls into helicopters. Each helicopter could carry roughly 15 girls, so one after the other, helicopters came in and landed, and he helped the girls get on the helicopter and helicopter out of there.

When I talked with Scott yesterday, he said he had just got off the phone with a mom and dad and a little girl who was one of those 165. And Scott, like many Coast Guard swimmers—if you have had the opportunity to meet Coast Guard swimmers, I describe them as a combination of a Navy SEAL and a California surfer. Coast Guard swimmers are some of the most incredible heroes we have.

Scott told the press this week, he said: I am just a dude. Which is very fitting for a Coast Guard swimmer. It is what many of them would say. But he told me those parents were crying and saying: You saved our daughter's life. And they said: You held our daughter's hand as she was scared and as you helped get her on the helicopter.

Yesterday, I went to Camp Mystic. I walked the grounds. It is the most horrible thing I have ever seen in my life. I have never seen devastation like this.

The river sits—and yesterday it was quiet; it was beautiful. The Guadalupe River, I have floated on dozens of times. The Guadalupe River, girls, boys, they go to swim and canoe, to have fun. It was calm and peaceful yesterday, but the morning of July 4, it rose with a ferocity that the cabins at Mystic, just about every one, was 8 feet deep in water.

I could see the water where it rose. It shattered out the windows. The force of the water pulled furniture out of the cabins. I cannot imagine the terror those girls experienced. One cabin, a cabin with the youngest campers, it was called Bumble Inn, a sign on the outside with a picture of a bee.

Outside that cabin were 17 lone white Latin crosses. On each one of them was written the name of someone who lost their life. That entire cabin is either confirmed dead or missing. And the names of those little girls, all third graders, two of those names are girls who go to school with my daughter, third graders from Houston. One of them lived a block away from me in Houston.

The final cross on the right has the name Dick Eastland, who is the director of the camp. He graduated from the University of Texas 50 years ago. He has been running the camp for 50 years. And in the early hours of July 4, he was driving his Suburban trying to rescue girls, and he drowned, just a couple hundred yards away from where I was, in deep water. He had a lifetime of caring for young girls. It is not surprising to those who knew him that he gave his life trying to save the lives of those girls.

I will tell you, I stood in front of those crosses and just wept. While I was there, there was a mom and dad who came and knelt in front of one of those crosses. They leaned over and kissed the cross, and then the mom walked to the cabin and looked in the window. And the cabin, everything had been cleaned out by the force of the water. She just stood there and wept. You looked across the cabin, and there were multiple families, moms and dads going through belongings. Throughout the camp, you could see foot lockers with glitter names put on the foot lockers. You could see pillows. You could see flip-flops and Crocs, and you could see hundreds of stuffed animals. These were little girls.

I tried to leave the families alone and respect their grief. I don't know how many of them were moms or dads who were collecting the belongings of their daughter who had lost their life. There were some girls who were walking around going through the belongings. I assume they were either campers who had survived or siblings of those who had lost their lives.

For the past several days, I have spoken to multiple family members whose daughters had been missing, and the panic that any father, any mother feels when you don't know where your child is; that hole in their heart that will never be filled.

Texas is grieving from a wound unlike any I have ever seen before, but I also want to bring a word of hope. In the face of all of this despair, in the face of all of this suffering, we saw extraordinary acts of heroism. I have spent 13 years in the Senate representing Texas. Texas is a large State—31 million people. Many natural disasters have struck Texas, from hurricanes to tornados to wildfires, and consistently, over and over again when you go to a disaster, you see the same thing, which is Texans coming together just helping each other.

I talked to you about Scott Ruskan, the coastguardsman. I met yesterday

the parents of another teenage boy. He was 14. He was at La Junta Camp, which is another boys camp there in Hunt. He was 14. He was awakened at about 3 in the morning. Water was rising. The camp was flooding. And his counselors told him come help rescue the little boys. So he went to the younger boys' cabin and helped them swim through the water.

These parents that I talked to yesterday, they were in tears. I asked them: Is your son OK? He was. Thankfully, the La Junta campers survived. And I said: Listen, he will always live with this trauma; you will always live with this trauma. But I said: To the extent it helps, he will also always know that at age 14, he helped save the life of 7- and 8- and 9-year-old little boys. And there will be boys and, one day, men who were living because that teenage boy risked his life for theirs.

I heard another story of a counselor who was in water up to his neck, holding with both hands mattresses on the water, on top of both mattresses was a camper. All three of them survived.

At the end of the day, I drove by a store called Hunt Store. The Hunt Store is an iconic store right there. It is a store we always stop by. It is a store Heidi and Catherine stopped by last week at the end of camp. The Hunt Store has been completely gutted. The floodwaters just cleaned it out.

The sign up top that reads "Hunt Store" had been changed. And now it reads: "Hunt Strong." It is a beautiful statement.

In the parking lot of the Hunt Store, there were people gathered eating. There was a giant trailer with a barbecue smoker and grill. From several Texans—big dudes with beards. They looked like ZZ Top. They weren't from Hunt; they were from Rockport, TX. Rockport, TX, is down on the gulf. And back almost a decade ago, when Hurricane Harvey hit, Rockport was devastated. And those folks from Rockport said they remembered that when their houses were destroyed, people from Hunt, TX, came down and offered them food and prepared them food. And I have got to tell you, I remember when Hurricane Harvey happened. I was in Rockport multiple times, and I was at those food trucks. I didn't know the folks providing them were from Hunt.

But the folks from Rockport said: They helped us out when we were in need; we have got to help them out. That is who Texas is.

In the parking lot of the Hunt Store, there was a car that had written on it on the windshield: Isaiah 43:2. When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you.

I will tell the Presiding Officer, there are many Texans right now who just need love; they need prayers. I would ask everyone to pray for the moms and dads who are grieving, who are missing their baby girls; for friends and family, hug them, love them. They need your support. They just need a shoulder to cry on. There is nothing you can say

that will bring their babies back. Just down the street from the Hunt Store is a church. It had in front of it a sign: "Free lunch and dinner, barbecue. All are welcome."

I have to say, that is the responsibility of the church to care for those in need, to feed and clothe and help those who are suffering. The church should do that every day but especially in the face of a crisis.

Texas will come through this. Kerr County will come through this. On my street at home, almost every house has a tree in front of it with a ribbon to mourn the girls from Camp Mystic. There was a video on the internet that was posted of a schoolbus full of girls from Mystic after the flooding. And they are driving along, and one of the girls is filming the disaster, the devastation along the side of the river. And the girls are singing hymns. They are singing Christian hymns rejoicing.

I have to tell you, if you can listen to those hymns, you can see those girls singing those hymns and not be reduced to tears, I can't imagine that you can.

Our State is hurting, but we will come through it. For all of our colleagues who have reached out and said: We love you; we are standing with you, thank you. We need that support. We will come through it. And we will come through with a spirit of what is on the sign above the Hunt Store, "Hunt Strong," "Texas Strong." We will come through this together.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the Griffith and Bedford nominations.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 106, Preston Griffith, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Energy.

John Thune, Eric Schmitt, John R. Curtis, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Bill Cassidy, Jon A. Husted, Steve Daines, Marsha Blackburn, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Ron Johnson, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Pete Ricketts, Jim Justice, Bill Hagerty.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Preston Griffith, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Energy, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) would have voted "yea," the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 373 Ex.]

YEAS—47

Banks	Ernst	Moran
Barrasso	Fischer	Moreno
Blackburn	Graham	Mullin
Boozman	Grassley	Paul
Britt	Husted	Ricketts
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Capito	Johnson	Rounds
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cornyn	King	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Curtis	McCormick	Young
Daines	Moody	

NAYS—41

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Baldwin	Hirono	Schatz
Bennet	Kaine	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Shaheen
Booker	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cantwell	Luján	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gallego	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

NOT VOTING—12

Coons	Hoeven	Rosen
Hagerty	Lee	Schmitt
Hawley	Murkowski	Scott (SC)
Heinrich	Murray	Warnock

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 47, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 197, Bryan Bedford, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the term of five years.

John Thune, Eric Schmitt, John R. Curtis, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Bill Cassidy, Jon A. Husted, Steve Daines, Marsha Blackburn, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Ron Johnson, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Pete Ricketts, Jim Justice, Bill Hagerty.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Bryan Bedford, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the term of five years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) would have voted "yea," the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 374 Ex.]

YEAS—47

Banks	Curtis	McConnell
Barrasso	Daines	McCormick
Blackburn	Ernst	Moody
Boozman	Fischer	Moran
Britt	Graham	Moreno
Budd	Grassley	Mullin
Capito	Husted	Paul
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Collins	Johnson	Risch
Cornyn	Justice	Rounds
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Lankford	Shaheen
Crapo	Lummis	Sheehy
Cruz	Marshall	

Sullivan Thune	Tillis Tuberville	Wicker Young
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NAYS—42

Alsobrooks	Hassan	Peters
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kelly	Schiff
Booker	Kim	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Slotkin
Coons	Klobuchar	Smith
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Markey	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Fetterman	Murphy	Welch
Gallago	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden

NOT VOTING—11

Hagerty	Lee	Schmitt
Hawley	Murkowski	Scott (SC)
Heinrich	Murray	Wainwright
Hooven	Rosen	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 47, the nays are 42. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Bryan Bedford, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the term of five years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

UKRAINE

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I was pleased to see President Trump say that his administration will resume sending weapons to Ukraine. It is my understanding that they signed an order to do so. He was going to do that using the resources and flexibilities that Congress has provided to him, to his administration.

This commitment is vital, ensuring that Ukraine has capabilities to meet the needs to protect its people and its territory against ongoing aggression.

America's security is closely linked to the stability of the free world. If Ukraine fails to repel Russia's invasion, the consequences will extend far beyond Eastern Europe, threatening the safety, economic strength, and global leadership of the United States of America.

If we allow a dictator to redraw borders by force, then what message does that send to other authoritarian regimes watching closely around the globe—including China? This is a message of weakness that invites further aggression, and it threatens our allies and partners around the globe.

The cost of inaction will far outweigh the cost of action. If Putin is not stopped in Ukraine, the likelihood of a direct confrontation between Russia and a NATO ally dramatically increases, and that would mean far greater costs—not just in resources but potentially in American lives.

The President has tried to negotiate a peace agreement, but Putin has indicated, in almost no uncertain fashion, lack of interest.

The Ukrainian people have demonstrated incredible courage and resilience. They are fighting for their freedom and, by extension, for the principles that underpin global peace and security.

Our response to what we are seeing in Ukraine and across the globe should be to build more capacity and ensure that we have a resilient industrial base, with an ability to handle all the possible threats that the United States faces now and into the future. And 90 percent of the aid we will provide also goes back directly into the American economy, expanding capacity and resources for our own defense industrial base and creating jobs right here at home.

Expanding that industrial base is hugely important to the future, the well-being, the national security of our Nation. By aiding Ukraine, we are replenishing our own stockpiles with new, more advanced equipment and demonstrating American leadership on the global stage.

President Trump also secured a recent agreement at the NATO summit in which members of the alliance agreed to increase defense spending from 2 percent to 5 percent by 2035. This commitment to the defense of Europe and the NATO members is a tremendous development and will bolster our collective strength in an alliance, bringing our allies' spending up to the same levels of the United States.

We need to make certain Ukraine has the equipment necessary to win a just and lasting peace. We are interested in that peace. We want that peace.

The United States must continue our resolute support for Ukraine, showing our adversaries that we are a reliable partner and that attacks on democracy will not go unanswered.

We need to prove, particularly after our withdrawal from Afghanistan, that our allies can rely on us and our adversaries should fear us.

Mr. President, I thank you for your engagement today and, in the past, the things that you have secured to see that there is a bright future for the people in Ukraine.

And I thank you, Mr. President, for my time on the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
TROY S. KNUTSON-COLLINS

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. President, today I honor the life and legacy of SSG Troy

S. Knutson-Collins. He was a patriot that made the ultimate sacrifice serving his country while deployed to Lithuania this March. His dedication, honor, and courage live on through his children Braylee, Kendra, Emery, Leif, and Skadi; his wife Ayrelle; and his parents Robert and Tonja.

Born in Battle Creek, MI, in 1996, Troy graduated from Harper Creek High School in 2015. He played semi-professional football before enlisting in the U.S. Army at the age of 20. Troy's dad says he was destined to work with tools from a young age, and he became a decorated mechanic for the Army stationed at Fort Stewart, GA. He deployed twice to South Korea and was on his deployment in Lithuania at the time of his passing.

His pursuit of excellence earned him numerous awards, including two Army Commendation Medals, one Army Achievement Medal, two Army Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, and the Master Technician Badge. He was described as an expert, an incredibly talented mechanic, and a warrior by his commanding officers.

Troy was not only a dedicated servicemember but also a loving husband and a devoted father to his five children. He was a man of integrity, kindness, and unwavering love for his family and friends. He was a passionate football fan, a skilled woodworker, and always full of energy. He brought a bright light to the lives of those around him. His sudden passing has left an unimaginable void in the lives of his family, friends, and fellow servicemembers.

We thank the more than 150 people from the U.S., Polish, and Lithuanian Armed Forces and other rescuers who took part in the recovery mission. We remember the lives of the three other soldiers of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, who lost their lives alongside Troy: Jose Duenez, Edwin Franco, and Dante Taitano. These soldiers were a part of United States-led NATO Operation Atlantic Resolve to enhance deterrence along the alliance's eastern flank. It is a testament to the important mission they were all serving that multiple countries joined forces and worked tirelessly to bring them home.

His loss is felt deeply by the soldiers in his unit, the Army community, his friends, and his family. His service and sacrifice serve as an example to us all. We are lucky to live in a country with tireless patriots like SSG Knutson-Collins. May his memory continue to inspire those who seek to serve and foster positive change in our world.

TOWN OF WHITING 200TH
ANNIVERSARY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, the Town of Whiting, ME, observes its bicentennial this July with a 3-day celebration that includes a Revolutionary

War reenactment, displays of antique farm and lumbering tools, historical presentations, quilts and other local crafts, great food, and good friendship. This long-planned event demonstrates why Whiting prides itself on being a small town with a big spirit.

The Revolutionary War reenactment is especially significant as one of the early settlers of the wilderness of far Downeast Maine after America won its independence was a hero of that conflict, General John Crane. A Massachusetts carpenter, Crane was a leader of the Sons of Liberty and was the only rebel injured during the Boston Tea Party.

Crane recovered and was commissioned as a Continental Army artillery officer who distinguished himself at Bunker Hill. Despite losing part of a foot to a cannon shot in 1776, he continued to serve and became the top commander of the U.S. Corps of Artillery. After the war, a grateful new nation granted the remarkable patriot a land grant on the coast of Maine.

With vast forest lands and fast-moving rivers, General Crane's settlement soon became a bustling lumber center with two sawmills. The fertile soil produced productive farms of crops and livestock, and pristine lakes, ponds, and streams supported abundant wildlife. When the general died in 1805, he was laid to rest with honors in the village cemetery.

Originally called Orangetown, after the river that powered the sawmills, the town was renamed Whiting upon its incorporation in 1825 after Timothy Whiting, an early settler and the town's first representative to the Maine Legislature.

Today, Whiting is a nature lover's paradise of gorgeous scenery and year-round outdoor recreation. The beautifully maintained Union Meeting House, built nearly two centuries ago, is a wonderful example of traditional New England church architecture and a worthy addition to the National Register of Historic Places.

Another major landmark is the Mill Pond Dam, built in 1830 where the Orange River meets Whiting Bay. In addition to creating a place of scenic beauty, the pond created by the stone dam has long been a crucial source of water for firefighters. Many residents recall how that precious water saved the town from destruction during a massive forest fire in 1985.

In addition to structural repairs, the dam needed a new fish passage. The Orange River is designated as Critical Habitat for Atlantic Salmon and supports herring and other important fish species and wildlife important to the economy and the ecosystem.

The people of Whiting stepped forward with investments of more than \$1 million for the watershed restoration project, and I was pleased to join the effort by securing \$2.9 million in Federal funds. During the legislative process, many students at Whiting Village School wrote letters supporting the

Mill Pond Dam project. When I discussed this funding with my Senate colleagues, those letters made a difference. It was impressive to see young people getting involved in the future of their community.

This 200th anniversary is not just the passing of years. It is about the people who for more than two centuries have pulled together, cared for one another, and built a community. My congratulations to the people of Whiting, ME, and my best wishes for the future.

TRIBUTE TO MARK MURPHY

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I rise to honor Mark Murphy, chief executive officer of the Green Bay Packers, as he prepares to retire on July 13. For 15 seasons, Mr. Murphy has led one of the most revered franchises in professional sports, ushering the team into an era of incredible success.

Founded in 1919, the Green Bay Packers are one of the oldest teams in the National Football League—NFL—and the league's last remaining “small-town team.” But make no mistake, a small town does not mean a small fanbase. Packers fans are as loyal and enthusiastic as they come. Every Packers game since 1960 has been sold out, and the waitlist for season tickets is nearly 150,000 names long. Over the team's long and storied history, the Packers have enjoyed many successful seasons. Decorated with 13 league championships, the team has nine pre-Super Bowl NFL titles and four Super Bowl victories. With more than 360,000 stockholders, the Packers are proudly the only community-owned team in all of American professional sports.

Because of the team's public ownership, being CEO of the Packers is a unique and demanding job, but Mr. Murphy's background could not suit him better for the position. Born in Fulton, NY, Mr. Murphy graduated from Clarence High School, where he was a successful athlete and accomplished student. Mark went on to attend Colgate University, continuing his athletic career playing football and baseball. He then went on to receive a master of business administration from American University and a juris doctor from Georgetown University.

After his success at Colgate, Mr. Murphy was drafted into the NFL. He played in Washington, DC, for eight seasons during which time the team twice reached the Super Bowl, winning Superbowl XVII in 1982. In 1983, Mr. Murphy led the league in interceptions and was named All-Pro. To this day, he is believed to be the only person to earn a Super Bowl ring as both a player as well as a team executive.

Following his time as a player, Mr. Murphy worked for the National Football League Players Association, eventually becoming vice president. While at the players association, Mr. Murphy served on the union's bargaining team during the 1987 player's strike. He moved on to collegiate athletics,

spending a combined 16 years as director of athletics at Colgate University and Northwestern University. In 1989, Mr. Murphy served as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice. He spent 4 years as a public servant, primarily representing government Agencies in trials. In 2007, Mr. Murphy became the tenth CEO of the Green Bay Packers, embarking on what would be a remarkably successful tenure with the franchise.

During his time with the Packers, Mr. Murphy made innumerable contributions to the Packers organization, including renovations to Lambeau Field, which is the oldest continuously occupied stadium in the NFL. He has overseen major renovations to the facility that have maintained the stadium's historic charm while making it a venue suitable for year-round events.

Mr. Murphy was also instrumental in development of the Titledown District. Situated directly next to Lambeau Field, Titledown is a mixed-use development that includes a residential property, numerous dining options, a sports medicine facility, a full-sized athletic field, game courts, and a playground. Titledown is also home to TitledownTech, a venture capital firm that Murphy has actively engaged with that invests in startups to solve global challenges. Since opening in 2017, Titledown has become a destination for locals and visitors alike.

Perhaps Mr. Murphy's most impressive accomplishment was his ability to build and maintain a successful football team. During Mr. Murphy's tenure, the Packers qualified for the postseason 13 times, reached the NFC championship game five times, and won Superbowl XLV in 2011. Mr. Murphy's leadership has allowed this team to remain one of the most successful in the league.

To cap off his time as CEO of the Packers, Mr. Murphy helped bring the NFL draft to Green Bay in April of 2025. The 3-day event brought more than 600,000 fans to Green Bay, the second-highest attendance in NFL draft history.

Mr. Murphy's contributions reach far beyond Lambeau Field and across Wisconsin. He and his wife Laurie have supported Wisconsin organizations dedicated to education, internet access, healthcare equity, and racial justice. Mr. Murphy is an advisory board member of the Positive Coaching Alliance, an organization that promotes a positive environment in youth athletics. He also served on the executive committee and board of USA Football and has contributed to efforts to make football safer for athletes of all ages. In 2021, Mr. Murphy received the Free Enterprise Award from the Rotary Club of Green Bay for his efforts to drive business growth and community impact through the Packers organization.

For 15 years, Mr. Murphy combined his passion for football with his strong business acumen to shape a bold era of

leadership. Mr. Murphy's legacy is defined by honest, thoughtful leadership—qualities for which he will be remembered in Wisconsin and across the National Football League. As he prepares to retire from the Packers Organization, I am proud to honor Mark Murphy's many contributions to the Green Bay Packers and the State of Wisconsin and wish him and his family all the best. "Go Pack Go!"

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING EDD THE FLORIST

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Edd the Florist of Ottumwa, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

After emigrating from Germany, Margaret and Karl Wilz moved from Chicago to Ottumwa to purchase Edd the Florist from Edd Buckley in 1956. Currently owned and operated by their son Hans, Edd the Florist remains strong under its second generation of leadership. Hans works alongside six employees, including Cathryn, who has been with the business since its early days when she was his father's assistant. When extended family comes to town during busy holidays to help at the shop, the operations of Edd the Florist are a true family affair.

Hans expanded his parents' business by incorporating other retail items and gifts, in addition to contemporary and traditional floral arrangements for any occasion. The inclusion of home goods, food, and gifts has made the storefront a one-stop-shop in Ottumwa. The business also supports the community by featuring other Iowa small businesses' products. Additionally, Edd the Florist opens its parking lot and partners with local food trucks to bring new dining options to Ottumwa. Thanks to strong support from the community, Edd the Florist was voted southern Iowa's best florist for 2024 by readers of the Ottumwa Courier.

The Wilz family has made integrating into the community a core priority for the business. Karl served as the president of the Ottumwa Chamber of Commerce and started the first Oktoberfest in the town. Hans also instituted a charity rubber duck race in Ottumwa. The proceeds support local organizations such as the Ottumwa YMCA and First Resources Corp., which offers a variety of services to children, families, and those with disabilities. In addition to owning the business for the last 30 years, Hans currently serves in the Iowa General Assembly as State representative for house district 25. In August, thanks to decades of hard work and community support, Edd the Florist will celebrate its 69th anniversary.

The entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to excellence demonstrated by Edd the Florist is clear. I want to congratulate Hans Wilz, his family, and the entire team for their hard work and dedication to their community and providing exceptional products and services to families across Iowa. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success.●

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL ELAINE MCLEOD

• Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, veterans are the very heartbeat of the Wiregrass, and they bond together to support many great causes in the region. Among those leading the way is Corporal Elaine McLeod of Troy.

The daughter of a Korean war veteran, Elaine joined the Army after graduating from high school in 1974. She served as a military police officer, doing everything from guarding Air Force One to scrubbing floors of the barracks. Elaine says the Army gave her the discipline that was missing in her early years. In 2000, Elaine returned home to Troy where she quickly began getting involved with local veteran organizations—including the Montgomery Chapter of Vietnam Veterans for America, AMVETS, and the Ozark American Legion Post, where she now serves as the commander. Elaine has worked tirelessly to address needs in the veteran community, including homelessness and food insecurity.

In true Army fashion, Elaine tackles these needs head on. She has spearheaded countless service opportunities and events across the region, including organizing socials for female veterans and partnering with a local church to host a weekly Friday night dinner for veterans and the military-affiliated community. Elaine's goal is to provide the ultimate support system for local veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

In 2019, Elaine founded Vets 4 Vets, We Got Your 6, to give Wiregrass veterans and their families the ultimate support system. Her efforts have created an even closer-knit bond between veterans and even the Active-Duty soldiers at Fort Rucker.

Alabama is grateful for Elaine's willingness to take on challenges to improve quality of life for our heroes. It is my honor to recognize her as the July Veteran of the Month.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the Secretary of the Senate, on July 3, 2025, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1. An act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the enrolled bill was signed on July 3, 2025, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. COTTON).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY) announced that on today, July 8, 2025, he had signed the following enrolled bill which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 331. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

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-1240. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, four (4) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Agriculture, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 27, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1241. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2024-2025 Marketing Year" (Docket No. AMS-SC-24-0067) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 27, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1242. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1243. A communication from the Acting Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalty Amounts for 2025" (Docket No. FR-6513-F-01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1244. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Business Combinations under the Bank Merger Act; Rescission" (RIN1557-AF29) received in the Office

of the President of the Senate on June 27, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1245. A communication from the Acting President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Bank's Annual Performance Plan for fiscal year 2026; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1246. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations that was declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1247. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to serious human rights abuse and corruption that was declared in Executive Order 13818 of December 20, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1248. A communication from the Acting President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Bank's Annual Performance Plan for fiscal year 2026 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1249. A communication from the Honors Attorney of the Office of Chief Counsel, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pipeline Safety: Editorial Change to Reflect the Name Change of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America" (RIN2137-AF72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1250. A communication from the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Offer Rate Review" ((RIN2140-AB61) (Docket No. EP 665 (Sub-No. 2))) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 27, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1251. A communication from the Honors Attorney of the Office of Chief Counsel, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous Materials: Liquefied Natural Gas by Rail" (RIN2137-AF40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 27, 2025; 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. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 2208. A bill to provide mandatory funding for hazardous fuels reduction projects on certain Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 2209. A bill to require contractors to provide reasonable access to repair materials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. BUDD):

S. 2210. A bill to ensure that the provision of portable benefits to an individual is not considered in determining whether such individual is an employee of a person, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2211. A bill to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Diabetes and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KIM, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2212. A bill to amend section 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require all immigration enforcement officers to display visible identification during public-facing immigration enforcement actions and to promote transparency and accountability; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 2213. A bill to improve counseling and access to information relating to foster care for military families; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SLOTKIN:

S. 2214. A bill to promote innovation and advanced manufacturing in the Department of Defense and the defense industrial base, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. Res. 313. A resolution honoring the Yell County Wildlife Federation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. TILLIS, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. Res. 314. A resolution recognizing the importance of trademarks in the economy and the role of trademarks in protecting consumer safety, by designating the month of July as "National Anti-Counterfeiting and Consumer Education and Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. JUSTICE, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. BLUNT, Mr. ROCHESTER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 315. A resolution expressing support for the designation of July 10, 2025, as Journeyman Lineworkers Recognition Day; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 316. A resolution expressing condolences of the Senate and honoring the memory of the victims on the third anniversary of the mass shooting at the Fourth of July parade in Highland Park, Illinois, on July 4, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 93

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 93, a bill to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms, and for other purposes.

S. 100

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 100, a bill to repeal the Corporate Transparency Act.

S. 237

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 237, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 366

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 366, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Muhammad Ali, in recognition of his contributions to the United States.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to achieve parity between the cost-of-living adjustment with respect to an annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System and an annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System, and for other purposes.

S. 688

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 688, a bill to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing at its sources globally.

S. 943

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 943, a bill to establish a manufactured housing community improvement grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 1295

At the request of Mr. JUSTICE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1295, a bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to develop and implement a strategy to interdict fentanyl and other synthetic drugs in the mail at Federal correctional facilities.

S. 1337

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1337, a bill to improve availability of information relating to cybersecurity threats.

S. 1366

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1366, a bill to protect, for current and future generations, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and interconnected Federal land and waters, including Voyageurs National Park, within the Rainy River Watershed in the State of Minnesota, and for other purposes.

S. 1541

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1541, a bill to support the national defense and economic security of the United States by supporting vessels, ports, and shipyards of the United States and the U.S. maritime workforce.

S. 1569

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1569, a bill to modify the criteria for recognition of accrediting agencies or associations for institutions of higher education.

S. 1643

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1643, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect patient access to ground ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 1692

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1692, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify data collection requirements for appropriate use criteria for applicable imaging services, and for other purposes.

S. 1748

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1748, a bill to protect the safety of children on the internet.

S. 1947

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1947, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce from authorizing commercial octopus aquaculture operations in the United States, the exclusive economic zone, and the waters of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2019

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2019, a bill to establish a Task Force for Recognizing and Averting Payment Scams, and for other purposes.

S. 2037

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from North Caro-

lina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2037, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination against employees on the basis of expression that describes, asserts, or reinforces the binary or biological nature of sex.

S. 2042

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2042, a bill to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System.

S. 2130

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2130, a bill to make improvements to the AUKUS partnership, and for other purposes.

S. 2172

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2172, a bill to prohibit fetal remains in publicly owned water systems, and for other purposes.

S. 2173

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2173, a bill to require the Administrator of General Services to sell certain Federal buildings, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 240

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 240, a resolution affirming that diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility are fundamental values of the United States and emphasizing the ongoing need to address discrimination and inequality in the workplace, pre-K through 12th grade and higher education systems, government programs, the military, and our society.

S. RES. 296

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 296, a resolution condemning antisemitism and recent antisemitic attacks in the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KIM, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2212. A bill to amend section 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require all immigration enforcement officers to display visible identification during public-facing immigration enforcement actions and to promote transparency and accountability; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Visible Identification Standards for Immigration-Based Law Enforcement (VISIBLE) Act of 2025, which I am proud to lead alongside Senator CORY BOOKER of New Jersey.

This legislation would require immigration enforcement officers—including Department of Homeland Security (DHS) personnel, Federal agents detailed to immigration operations, and deputized State or local officers—to wear clearly visible identification during public-facing civil immigration enforcement actions. The identification must include the officer's Agency name or initials and either their name or badge number, displayed in a way that remains legible and unobscured by tactical gear or clothing.

The bill prohibits nonmedical face coverings, such as masks or balaclavas, that obscure an officer's face or impair the visibility of required identifying information, except when necessary for environmental hazards or covert operations. It also directs DHS to establish disciplinary procedures for violations, requires annual compliance reporting to Congress, and empowers the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties to investigate public complaints and recommend corrective action.

In recent years, civil immigration enforcement operations have increasingly featured officers wearing unmarked tactical gear and concealing clothing, with no visible indication of their Agency affiliation or personal identity. These tactics have sown confusion, fear, and mistrust, especially in immigrant communities already subjected to heightened scrutiny. In some cases, members of the public could not even confirm whether they were interacting with legitimate government officials.

This lack of transparency is not only dangerous for the public but also for law enforcement. When officers are indistinguishable from impersonators, the risk of escalation in high-stress encounters increases. By requiring visible identification, the VISIBLE Act helps promote professionalism, improve accountability, and reduce the risk of mistaken identity or misuse of Federal authority.

The bill's approach is narrow and balanced. It does not interfere with covert operations, criminal enforcement actions, or necessary officer protections. Instead, it simply ensures that during public-facing civil immigration enforcement actions, officers can be identified. This is a commonsense safeguard—similar to policies that local police and other Federal Agencies already implement themselves—and one that will help rebuild public trust in Federal immigration operations.

I am grateful to Senator BOOKER for his partnership on this legislation, and for his continued leadership on issues of fairness and accountability in our immigration and criminal justice systems. At a time when immigration enforcement practices are under intense

national scrutiny, we must ensure that our policies reflect not only authority, but integrity. The **VISIBLE** Act helps meet that standard.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 313—HONORING THE YELL COUNTY WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 313

Whereas the Yell County Wildlife Federation was founded in 1946 by local Arkansas Game and Fish Wardens Bob Parker and Bob Campbell, along with biologist Gene Rush;

Whereas the Yell County Wildlife Federation is the oldest conservation organization of its kind in Arkansas and the oldest organization in Yell County;

Whereas the Yell County Wildlife Federation and its members have displayed an admirable commitment to conservation and youth education;

Whereas the Yell County Wildlife Federation supports scholarship efforts and career development for students at Arkansas Tech University;

Whereas the members of, and volunteers for, the Yell County Wildlife Federation have participated in conservation efforts in the Petit Jean River Wildlife Management Area through purchasing land from willing sellers, developing waterfowl habitats, increasing recreational access, and other improvements;

Whereas years of volunteer work by the Yell County Wildlife Federation on Bearcat Hollow Wildlife Management Area assisted with the reintroduction of elk to Arkansas for the first time since 1848;

Whereas the Yell County Wildlife Federation sponsors and participates in events including fishing derbies, hunter education programs, Arbor Day, and many more; and

Whereas, in 15 years of volunteer efforts in the Ozark National Forest, members of the Yell County Wildlife Federation have contributed more than 18,000 man-hours: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the past and present members of the Yell County Wildlife Federation for their service to the people and State of Arkansas.

SENATE RESOLUTION 314—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADEMARKS IN THE ECONOMY AND THE ROLE OF TRADEMARKS IN PROTECTING CONSUMER SAFETY, BY DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF JULY AS “NATIONAL ANTI-COUNTERFEITING AND CONSUMER EDUCATION AND AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. TILLIS, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 314

Whereas public awareness is crucial to safeguard consumers and businesses from unsafe and unreliable products that, through illicit activity, threaten intellectual property rights, the economic market, and even the health and well-being of consumers;

Whereas Federal statutes such as the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the registration and protection of trademarks used in commerce, to carry out the provisions of certain international conventions, and for other purposes”, approved July 5, 1946 (commonly referred to as the “Trademark Act of 1946” or the “Lanham Act”) (60 Stat. 427, chapter 540; 15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as the “Lanham Act”), and the Trademark Counterfeiting Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-473; 98 Stat. 2178) regulate the unlawful act of producing and selling counterfeit products;

Whereas the Lanham Act provided the foundation for modern Federal trademark protection, creating legal rights and remedies for brand owners suffering from trademark infringement, helping consumers make informed choices by reducing the amount of confusingly similar products, and making the marketplace more fair, competitive, and safe for all;

Whereas October 12, 2025, marks the 41st anniversary of the enactment of the Trademark Counterfeiting Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-473; 98 Stat. 2178);

Whereas, according to the World Intellectual Property Organization, there were an estimated 88,200,000 active trademark registrations around the world in 2023, a 6.4 percent increase from the previous year;

Whereas counterfeit products undermine laws, including the Lanham Act, that ensure the safety of consumers, businesses, and brand owners against illegitimate products in the marketplace, from which criminal groups and bad actors are benefitting at the expense of the public and private sector;

Whereas counterfeiters use different online platforms to attract consumers to buy illegitimate goods, usually enticing consumers through cheaper prices;

Whereas the growth of both global commerce and electronic commerce has expedited the evolving problem of counterfeit goods, because that growth in commerce has given third-party actors an enhanced opportunity to reach consumers that they may have not previously been able to reach;

Whereas the deceptive tactics of counterfeiters and their counterfeit products pose actual and potential harm to the health and safety of the people of the United States, especially the most vulnerable consumers in society, such as senior citizens and children;

Whereas, according to the 2025 report by the United States Trade Representative required under section 182(h) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2242(h)) (commonly referred to as the “Special 301 Report”), counterfeit items often do not comply with regulated safety standards, and as a result, vast amounts of unsafe products are constantly circulating the market and endangering the public;

Whereas goods originating in China and Hong Kong accounted for more than 90 percent of all customs seizures of dangerous counterfeit goods in fiscal year 2024, including electronics, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and other goods;

Whereas counterfeit medical products pose a particular threat to the safety and health of consumers in the United States because those counterfeit goods do not adhere to the same quality standards as authentic articles;

Whereas, in September 2021, the Drug Enforcement Administration issued its first Public Safety Alert in 6 years to warn the public about the alarming increase in the availability and lethality of fake prescription pills in the United States, pills that often contain deadly doses of fentanyl, and in 2024, the Drug Enforcement Administration seized a staggering 60,000,000 fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills;

Whereas counterfeit products threaten the United States economy and job creation, and according to Library of Congress and the United States Patent and Trademark Office, as of 2020, counterfeiting and piracy have cost businesses in the United States more than \$200,000,000,000 per year, have led to the loss of more than 750,000 jobs, and have induced an additional loss of approximately \$29,000,000,000 per year to the economy of the United States through displacing the legitimate sale of authentic goods;

Whereas, according to the National Association of Manufacturers, in 2019, counterfeiting caused an estimated \$22,300,000,000 loss in labor income, a \$5,600,000,000 loss in Federal tax revenues, and a \$4,000,000,000 loss in State and local tax revenues;

Whereas, in 2024, U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized more than 32,300,000 counterfeit goods, with an estimated manufacturer’s suggested retail price of more than \$5,400,000,000 if the goods were genuine, which equates to about \$14,794,520 in counterfeit goods seizures every day;

Whereas the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development found that the global trade of counterfeit products was appraised at \$467,000,000,000 in 2021;

Whereas businesses of all sizes collectively spend millions of dollars to protect and enforce their own brand and products by removing counterfeit products from both online and physical marketplaces;

Whereas businesses must devote resources to combating counterfeit products instead of using those resources to grow their business by hiring new employees and developing new products;

Whereas one of the most effective ways to protect consumers from the dangers of counterfeit products is through educational campaigns and awareness programs; and

Whereas organizations such as the Congressional Trademark Caucus, Federal enforcement agencies, the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center, and State enforcement agencies are actively working to raise awareness of the value of trademarks and the impact and harms caused by counterfeit products on both the national and State economies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of July 2025 as “National Anti-Counterfeiting and Consumer Education and Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Anti-Counterfeiting and Consumer Education and Awareness Month to educate the public and raise public awareness about the actual and potential dangers counterfeit products pose to consumer health and safety;

(3) affirms the continuing importance and need for comprehensive Federal, State, and private sector-supported education and awareness efforts designed to equip the consumers of the United States with the information and tools needed to safeguard against illegal counterfeit products in traditional commerce, internet commerce, and other electronic commerce platforms; and

(4) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to combating counterfeiting by promoting awareness about the actual and potential harm of counterfeiting to consumers and brand owners and by promoting new education programs and campaigns designed to reduce the supply of, and demand for, counterfeit products.

SENATE RESOLUTION 315—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JULY 10, 2025, AS JOURNEYMAN LINeworkERS RECOGNITION DAY

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. JUSTICE, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GALLEGRO, and Mr. SUL-LIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 315

Whereas the United States relies on safe, reliable, affordable, and clean electricity to power its economy, as well as homes, businesses, industries and manufacturers, colleges and universities, schools, hospitals, cities, and communities, and so much more;

Whereas journeyman lineworkers play a critical role in keeping the United States energy grid running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year;

Whereas journeyman lineworkers perform heroic services during national and regional disasters, including hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes, and ice storms, and also work in tough terrain, extreme heat, and cold areas of the country;

Whereas journeyman lineworkers consistently work long hours often under dangerous conditions to restore power;

Whereas journeyman lineworkers put their lives on the line every day to ensure the delivery of safe and reliable power to the United States, and its territories;

Whereas July 10, 2025, marks the 129th anniversary of the death of Henry Miller, the first president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, who was killed in the line of duty while trying to restore electricity during an outage in Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas there should be a day to honor the hundreds of thousands of men and women who have also put their lives on the line over the past 129 years to provide skillful service in times of local or national crisis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of July 10, 2025, as Journeyman Lineworkers Recognition Day;

(2) honors and recognizes the contributions and sacrifices of countless journeyman lineworkers who often place themselves in harm's way to serve their customers and their communities; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Journeyman Lineworkers Recognition Day with appropriate reflection.

SENATE RESOLUTION 316—EX-PRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE AND HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS ON THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASS SHOOTING AT THE FOURTH OF JULY PARADE IN HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS, ON JULY 4, 2022

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 316

Whereas, on July 4, 2022, a gunman opened fire at the corner of Central Avenue and Second Street in Highland Park, Illinois, during the annual Fourth of July parade;

Whereas the gunman took the lives of 7 individuals and injured 48 more individuals;

Whereas the 7 individuals who lost their lives that day were—

(1) Katherine Goldstein, age 64, of Highland Park, Illinois, a beloved wife and mother, who was known for her kind, caring personality, and for bringing neighbors delicious baked goods during the holidays;

(2) Irina McCarthy, age 35, of Highland Park, Illinois, a wife and mother of 2-year-old Aiden, who met her husband Kevin through their mutual work in the pharmaceutical industry;

(3) Kevin McCarthy, age 37, of Highland Park, Illinois, a husband and father of 2-year-old Aiden, who died protecting his son from gunfire;

(4) Stephen Straus, age 88, of Highland Park, Illinois, a brother, husband, father, and grandfather, who was a joke-teller and avid reader and greatly enjoyed the Art Institute of Chicago and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra;

(5) Jacquelyn Sundheim, age 63, of Highland Park, Illinois, a kind and caring wife and mother, who was a lifelong member of North Shore Congregation Israel, in Glencoe, where she also taught preschool and served as the events coordinator;

(6) Nicolas Toledo-Zaragoza, age 78, of Morelos, Mexico, who was attending the parade with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; and

(7) Eduardo Uvaldo, age 69, of Waukegan, Illinois, who was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather;

Whereas dozens of individuals were wounded by gunfire or injured fleeing the scene of the mass shooting;

Whereas the Highland Park Police Department and the Highland Park Fire Department led dozens of agencies in responding to the shooting with bravery and professionalism, including—

(1) the Illinois State Police;

(2) the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives;

(3) the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

(4) the United States Secret Service;

(5) the United States Marshals Service;

(6) the Naval Criminal Investigative Service;

(7) the Lake County Major Crimes Task Force;

(8) the Chicago Police Department;

(9) the Lake County Sheriff's Office;

(10) the Cook County Sheriff's Office;

(11) the Northwest Central Dispatch System;

(12) the Regional Emergency Dispatch Center (RED Center);

(13) the Glenview Public Safety Dispatch Center;

(14) the Highland Park Community Emergency Response Team (CERT);

(15) the Deerfield-Bannockburn Fire Protection District;

(16) the Northbrook Fire Department;

(17) the Winnetka Fire Department;

(18) the Northfield Fire Department;

(19) the Buffalo Grove Fire Department;

(20) the Prospect Heights Fire Department;

(21) the Libertyville Fire Department;

(22) the Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Protection District;

(23) the Evanston Fire Department;

(24) the Glenview Fire Department;

(25) the Lake Bluff Fire Department;

(26) the Skokie Fire Department;

(27) the Wilmette Fire Department;

(28) the Des Plaines Fire Department;

(29) the Glencoe Department of Public Safety;

(30) the Lake Forest Fire Department;

(31) the Morton Grove Fire Department;

(32) the Park Ridge Fire Department;

(33) the Waukegan Fire Department;

(34) the Niles Fire Department;

(35) the Addison Fire Protection District;

(36) the Streamwood Fire Department;

(37) the Hanover Park Fire Department;

and

(38) the police departments of—

(A) Addison;

(B) Antioch;

(C) Arlington Heights;

(D) Bannockburn;

(E) Barrington;

(F) Barrington Hills;

(G) Bartlett;

(H) Berwyn;

(I) Buffalo Grove;

(J) Carpentersville;

(K) Cary;

(L) Crystal Lake;

(M) Deerfield;

(N) Des Plaines;

(O) Elk Grove Village;

(P) Elmhurst;

(Q) Evanston;

(R) Fox Lake;

(S) Franklin Park;

(T) Glencoe;

(U) Glenview;

(V) Grayslake;

(W) Gurnee;

(X) Hanover Park;

(Y) Harwood Heights;

(Z) Hoffman Estates;

(AA) Inverness;

(BB) Kenilworth;

(CC) Kildeer;

(DD) Lake Bluff;

(EE) Lake Forest;

(FF) Lake Villa;

(GG) Lake Zurich;

(HH) Libertyville;

(II) Lincolnshire;

(JJ) Lincolnwood;

(KK) McHenry;

(LL) Morton Grove;

(MM) Mount Prospect;

(NN) Mundelein;

(OO) Niles;

(PP) Norridge;

(QQ) North Chicago;

(RR) North Riverside;

(SS) Northbrook;

(TT) Northfield;

(UU) Palatine;

(VV) Prospect Heights;

(WW) Riverwoods;

(XX) Rolling Meadows;

(YY) Rosemont;

(ZZ) Round Lake;

(AAA) Round Lake Beach;

(BBB) Round Lake Park;

(CCC) Schiller Park;

(DDD) Skokie;

(EEE) Streamwood;

(FFF) Vernon Hills;

(GGG) Wauconda;

(HHH) Waukegan;

(III) Western Springs;

(JJJ) Wheeling;

(KKK) Wilmette;

(LLL) Winnetka;

(MMM) Winthrop Harbor; and

(NNN) Zion;

Whereas the emergency responders and the doctors, nurses, and other health care providers at Highland Park Hospital, Glenbrook Hospital, Evanston Hospital, Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital, Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, and University of Chicago Medicine Comer Children's Hospital provided professional and dedicated care to the victims;

Whereas, during the year following the shooting, many volunteer counselors traveled to North Shore School District 112 and

Township High School District 113 to assist the community in the process of healing;

Whereas members of the Highland Park, Highwood, Waukegan, and North Chicago communities, along with communities across the entire North Shore, the State of Illinois, the United States, and the world remain united in support of the victims of this horrific massacre and their families on its 3-year anniversary;

Whereas, according to the Gun Violence Archive, the tragic mass shooting that occurred in Highland Park was 1 of 10 mass shootings that occurred on July 4, 2022; and

Whereas senseless gun violence has caused devastation, trauma, and grief to too many families and communities across the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses sincere condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of Katherine Goldstein, Irina McCarthy, Kevin McCarthy, Stephen Straus, Jacquelyn Sundheim, Nicolas Toledo-Zaragoza, and Eduardo Uvaldo, the victims of the devastating shooting along the parade route on July 4, 2022, in Highland Park, Illinois;

(2) honors the lives and memory of the victims, with gratitude for their selfless dedication to others;

(3) continues to extend support to the individuals who were injured and subjected to the trauma of the shooting;

(4) expresses gratitude to the law enforcement officers, medical personnel, and emergency responders who responded to the shooting with professionalism, dedication, and bravery; and

(5) stands in solidarity with the victims of senseless gun violence in communities across the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

The Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 4:30 p.m., to conduct a closed session.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 6:15 p.m., to conduct a closed session.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER

The Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 5:45 p.m., to conduct a closed session.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

The Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 6 p.m., to conduct a closed session.

LULU'S LAW

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 91, S. 1003.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1003) to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue an order providing that a shark attack is an event for which a wireless emergency alert may be transmitted, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 1003) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1003

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 "Lulu's Law".

SEC. 2. WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "Alert Message" has the meaning given the term in section 10.10(a) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall issue an order to provide that a shark attack is an event for which an Alert Message may be transmitted.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2025

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 9; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Calendar No. 106, Preston Griffith, and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 11:30; that following disposition of the Griffith nomination, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Calendar No. 81, Scott Kuper, and following the cloture vote, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; further, that at 2:15 p.m., the Senate vote on confirmation of Calendar No. 197, Bryan Bedford, and following disposition of the Bedford nomination, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Calendar No. 58, William Briggs; further, that at 5:45 p.m., if cloture is invoked, the Senate vote on confirmation of the Kuper nomination and following disposition of the nomination, if cloture is invoked, the Senate vote on confirmation of the Briggs nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MORAN. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:57 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 10 a.m.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4243–S4261

Measures Introduced: Seven bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2208–2214, and S. Res. 313–316. **Page S4257**

Measures Passed:

Lulu's Law: Senate passed S. 1003, to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue an order providing that a shark attack is an event for which a wireless emergency alert may be transmitted. **Page S4261**

Gould Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jonathan Gould, of Virginia, to be Comptroller of the Currency for a term of five years. **Page S4248**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Thursday, July 10, 2025. **Page S4248**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4248**

Hermendorfer Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Whitney D. Hermendorfer, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit. **Pages S4248–49**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Jonathan Gould, of Virginia, to be Comptroller of the Currency for a term of five years. **Pages S4248–49**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S4248**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4248**

Griffith Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Preston Griffith, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Energy. **Pages S4249–53**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 47 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 373), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S4253**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding rule XXII, all post-cloture time on the nominations of Preston Griffith, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Energy, and Bryan Bedford, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the term of five years, be expired and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader in consultation with the Democratic Leader no earlier than Wednesday, July 9, 2025; and that the remaining cloture motions filed on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, ripen at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader in consultation with the Democratic Leader on Wednesday, July 9, 2025. **Page S4249**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, July 9, 2025; and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 11:30 a.m.; and that following disposition of the nomination of Preston Griffith, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Scott Kuper, of California, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years; provided further that at 2:15 p.m., Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination of Bryan Bedford, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the term of five years, and following disposition of the nomination, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of

William Briggs, of Texas, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration; provided further that at 5:45 p.m., Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination of Scott Kuper, and following disposition of the nomination, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination of William Briggs.

Page S4261

Bedford Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Bryan Bedford, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the term of five years.

Pages S4253–54

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 47 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 374), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Pages S4253–54

Messages from the House:

Page S4256

Executive Communications:

Pages S4256–57

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S4257–58

Additional Statements:

Page S4256

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Page S4261

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—374)

Pages S4253–54

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:57 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 9, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4261.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Airland approved for full committee consideration those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026.

AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Seapower approved for full committee consideration those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026.

AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces approved for full committee consideration those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026.

AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support approved for full committee consideration those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House will meet in Pro Forma session at 11 a.m. on Thursday, July 10, 2025.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D641)

H.R. 1, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14. Signed on July 4, 2025. (Public Law 119–21)

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY,
JULY 9, 2025**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: to hold hearings to examine a future without Type 1 Diabetes, focusing on accelerating breakthroughs and creating hope, 10 a.m., SD-106.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel, business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026, 8:30 a.m., SR-232A.

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026, 9 a.m., SR-222.

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026, 9:15 a.m., SR-222.

Full Committee, closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026, 9:45 a.m., SR-222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine from Wall Street to Web3, focusing on tomorrow's digital asset markets, 10:15 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Neil Jacobs, of North Carolina, to be Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, and Taylor Jordan, of the District of Columbia, and Harry Kumar, of New York, both to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Commerce, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lanny Erdos, of Ohio, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, and Audrey Robertson, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy), Timothy John Walsh, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary (Environmental Management), and David Eisner, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Energy, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: business meeting to consider the nominations of Usha-Maria Turner, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, David Wright, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and 32 General Services Administration resolutions, 8:45 a.m., SD-562.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jeffrey Bartos, of Pennsylvania, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the Rank of Ambassador, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as an Alternate Rep-

resentative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Lynda Blanchard, of Alabama, to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, with the rank of Ambassador, Jennifer Locetta, of Florida, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Anjani Sinha, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore, and Kimberly Guilfoyle, of Florida, to be Ambassador to Greece, all of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider the nomination of Susan Monarez, of Wisconsin, to be Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, 9:30 a.m., SD-430.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine securing the future of health care, focusing on enhancing cybersecurity and protecting Americans' privacy, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH-219.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of July 9 through July 11, 2025

Senate Chamber

On *Wednesday*, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Preston Griffith, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Energy, with a vote on confirmation of the nomination at approximately 11:30 a.m., to be followed by a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Scott Kuper, of California, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

At approximately 2:15 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Bryan Bedford, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the term of five years. Following which, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of William Briggs, of Texas, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

At 5:45 p.m., if cloture is invoked, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Scott Kuper, and following disposition of the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of William Briggs.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: July 9, to hold hearings to examine a future without Type 1 Diabetes, focusing on accelerating breakthroughs and creating hope, 10 a.m., SD-106.

July 10, Full Committee, business meeting to markup the “Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026”, the “Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026”, and the “Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2026”, 9:30 a.m., SD-106.

Committee on Armed Services: July 9, Subcommittee on Personnel, business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026, 8:30 a.m., SR-232A.

July 9, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026, 9 a.m., SR-222.

July 9, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026, 9:15 a.m., SR-222.

July 9, Full Committee, closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026, 9:45 a.m., SR-222.

July 10, Full Committee, closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026, 12 noon, SR-222.

July 11, Full Committee, closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026, 9 a.m., SR-222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: July 9, to hold hearings to examine from Wall Street to Web3, focusing on tomorrow’s digital asset markets, 10:15 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: July 9, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Neil Jacobs, of North Carolina, to be Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, and Taylor Jordan, of the District of Columbia, and Harry Kumar, of New York, both to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Commerce, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: July 9, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lanny Erdos, of Ohio, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, and Audrey Robertson, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary (Energy

Efficiency and Renewable Energy), Timothy John Walsh, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary (Environmental Management), and David Eisner, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Energy, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

July 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2026 for the U.S. Forest Service, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: July 9, business meeting to consider the nominations of Usha-Maria Turner, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, David Wright, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and 32 General Services Administration resolutions, 8:45 a.m., SD-562.

Committee on Foreign Relations: July 9, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jeffrey Bartos, of Pennsylvania, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the Rank of Ambassador, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Lynda Blanchard, of Alabama, to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, with the rank of Ambassador, Jennifer Locetta, of Florida, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Anjani Sinha, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore, and Kimberly Guilfoyle, of Florida, to be Ambassador to Greece, all of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: July 9, business meeting to consider the nomination of Susan Monarez, of Wisconsin, to be Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, 9:30 a.m., SD-430.

July 9, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine securing the future of health care, focusing on enhancing cybersecurity and protecting Americans’ privacy, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Select Committee on Intelligence: July 9, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH-219.

July 10, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 10 a.m., SH-219.

HOUSE COMMITTEES

No hearings are scheduled.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House.
The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3 through June 30, 2025

	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>	<i>Total</i>
Days in Session	106	92	..
Time in Session	733hrs 43'	328hrs 18'	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	\$4237	H3037	..
Extensions of remarks .....	..	E637	..
Public bills enacted into law	10	12	..
Private bills enacted into law .....	..	..	..
Bills in conference .....	..	..	..
Measures passed, total	205	297	502
Senate bills	27	4	..
House bills	6	196	..
Senate joint resolutions	9	5	..
House joint resolutions	11	12	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	6	4	..
House concurrent resolutions	6	9	..
Simple resolutions	140	67	..
Measures reported, total	*89	176	265
Senate bills	64	0	..
House bills .....	..	139	..
Senate joint resolutions .....	..	..	..
House joint resolutions .....	..	2	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	1	..	..
House concurrent resolutions .....	..	2	..
Simple resolutions	24	33	..
Special reports	10	2	..
Conference reports .....	..	..	..
Measures pending on calendar	83	65	..
Measures introduced, total	2577	4967	7544
Bills	2190	4259	..
Joint resolutions	60	103	..
Concurrent resolutions	15	40	..
Simple resolutions	312	565	..
Quorum calls	3	1	..
Yea-and-nay votes	372	157	..
Recorded votes .....	..	27	..
Bills vetoed .....	..	..	..
Veto overridden .....	..	..	..

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3 through June 30, 2025

Civilian nominees, totaling 442, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	86
Unconfirmed	328
Withdrawn	28
Other Civilian nominees, totaling 292, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	270
Unconfirmed	22
Air Force nominees, totaling 4,682, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	4,522
Unconfirmed	160
Army nominees, totaling 4,433, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	4,427
Unconfirmed	6
Navy nominees, totaling 1,920, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1,917
Unconfirmed	3
Marine Corps nominees, totaling 101, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	100
Unconfirmed	1
Space Force nominees, totaling 15, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	13
Unconfirmed	2
<i>Summary</i>	
Total nominees carried over from the First Session	0
Total nominees received this Session	11,885
Total confirmed	11,335
Total unconfirmed	522
Total withdrawn	28
Total returned to the White House	0

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 33 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 178 reports have been filed in the House.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, July 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Preston Griffith, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Energy, with a vote on confirmation of the nomination at approximately 11:30 a.m., to be followed by a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Scott Kuper, of California, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

At approximately 2:15 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Bryan Bedford, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the term of five years. Following which, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of William Briggs, of Texas, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

At 5:45 p.m., if cloture is invoked, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Scott Kuper, and following disposition of the nomination, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination of William Briggs.

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Scott Kuper until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11 a.m., Thursday, July 10

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 11 a.m.



Congressional Record

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