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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 25, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the people's House reassembles, our Nation faces a complicated and, to many, a confusing economic issue.

Bless each Member of this assembly with the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding needed to meet the interests of the citizens of the United States.

Renew in us all the adoption by Your Spirit, that we may affirm our freedoms, not only with conviction in the way we understand others, but in ourselves by actions proven beyond words.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done here this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX 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.

THE PRESIDENT'S SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in four short days, thousands of jobs will fall victim to the President's sequester. It is no secret that the very proposal for sequestration originated in the White House. And what has the President done to help Congress solve the mess he created by reaching a solution? He has traveled across the country and made speeches from the White House campaigning for tax increases.

In Friday's Washington Post, Bob Woodward described the President's approach to raise taxes as a substitute for the sequester as ''he is moving the goalposts.'' The best way that our country can avert this devastating policy, which will destroy jobs and place our national security at risk, is for the President to put the interests of the American people before party politics.

House Republicans have voted twice to replace the sequester with commonsense reforms. Time is running out. With just days to go, the President should begin working with House Republicans by engaging in the legislative process.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

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

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office took historic action this month. For the first time ever, GAO put climate change on its high-risk list because of the serious threat it poses to the taxpayer.

It makes sense. Just look at Superstorm Sandy and the droughts and heat waves we have recently endured. Extreme weather events have cost our Nation more than $180 billion over the last two years.

That's why today the cochairs of the Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change are writing to 69 inspectors general across the Federal Government. We are asking for their help in assessing whether government entities are doing all they can to confront this threat.

As a member of the Safe Climate Caucus, I believe it's time we take this issue seriously. If we don't, we will leave our children an unstable climate and disaster costs that they will not be able to afford.

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THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE TAKEOVER BRINGS MORE CHAOS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act becomes more apparent every day that goes by, and the problems that are contained therein. Indeed, the President's takeover of health care is delivering more chaos to our health care system.

We have 26 States that are not going to be participating in State exchanges, so a Federal exchange will be set up in those States. The complex eligibility process that citizens will have to go through, the exchange of personal information with Federal agencies that they are going to be required to provide, is truly staggering. Once an individual submits an application to an exchange, the information is then shared with Health and Human Services, the Social Security Administration, the Department of Homeland Security, the Treasury Department, and the IRS.

Enrollees will not only have to submit all of their information when they first enroll, but they will have to resubmit every year.

The President's law intends that exchanges will be ready by October 1. Let me tell you, the five Federal agencies that are involved in this are not forthcoming with the information that they're, in fact, on track. And, in fact, the informatics piece, the information piece that is supposed to be ready when this is all switched on in October is likely not to be ready.

There was a better way to do this. Republicans had better ideas. Governors had better ideas. The administration simply would not listen.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we have now entered the final week before the dangerous, arbitrary, and irrational policy of sequestration, which Republicans proposed first in their cut, cap, and balance bill in July of 2011.

If I were the majority leader, Mr. Speaker, that policy would not go into effect. Budget discipline is absolutely necessary, but damaging job growth in our economy to do so is self-defeating.

The only responsible way forward is for Republicans and Democrats to work together to achieve a balanced solution to deficits that can turn off the sequestration. House and Senate Democrats have each proposed balanced alternatives that combine smart, targeted cuts in spending and tax expenditures. I would hope the majority leader, Mr. CANTOR, would bring that to the floor.

While many Republicans have been praising the sequester as a viable path forward, Democrats recognize this mindless policy for the danger it is.

I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the sequester's consequences, and to work with Democrats to find an alternative, or, if that can't be done, to abandon this reckless policy.

We only have 4 days left to go, and our country's overall well-being depends on it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to call up H.R. 699, which is the balanced Democratic alternative to sequestration, which I know we have ample time to debate over the next few days and, hopefully, send to the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot entertain that request without appropriate clearance from both sides.

THE PRESIDENT'S SEQUESTER

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of our colleague from Maryland, but I think he needs to direct them to the President, and I am going to speak to that in my 1-minute.

The editorial page of The Washington Post is not known for being critical of the President. This weekend, however, it published an op-ed by one of their most veteran reporters which should establish once and for all that the sequester—arbitrary across-the-board spending cuts that go into effect March 1—was the brainchild of the Obama administration.

Woodward writes that at 2:30 on the afternoon of July 27, 2011, White House officials Jack Lew and Rob Nabors brought up the idea of the sequester in a meeting with the Democrat Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID. Even more notable is Woodward's assertion that "Obama personally approved of the plan," which was presented.

Jack Lew is now the President's nominee for Treasury Secretary, and Woodward reports that in his confirmation hearings in the Senate, when asked about proposing the sequester, Lew went into "denial mode." The American people are tired of denial mode, Mr. Speaker. We need a serious plan to replace the President's sequester, and it needs to come from the other side of the aisle.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1705

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) at 5 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

NEIL A. ARMSTRONG FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER AND HUGH L. DRYDEN AERONAUTICAL TEST RANGE DESIGNATION ACT

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 667) to redesignate the Dryden Flight Research Center as the Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center and the Western Aeronautical Test Range as the Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 667

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

SECTION 1. REDESIGNATION OF DRYDEN FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Hugh L. Dryden Flight Research Center in Edwards, California, is redesignated as the "NASA Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the flight research center referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "NASA Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center".

SEC. 2. REDESIGNATION OF WESTERN AERONAUTICAL TEST RANGE.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Western Aeronautical Test Range in California is redesignated as the "NASA Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the test range referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "NASA Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 667, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from California, KEVIN MCCARTHY, the majority whip and, I might add, the originator and author of this bill.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I would like to thank the chairman for his work.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 667, to honor two great pioneers in American aeronautics and space exploration, Dr. Hugh Dryden and Astronaut Neil Armstrong.

Neil Armstrong was a Navy fighter pilot, engineer, test pilot, astronaut, and educator who was always proud to serve this Nation.

Before joining the Astronaut Corps in 1962 and eventually taking the first small step for a man, Armstrong served as a test pilot for 7 years at what is presently called the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center in Kern County, California, which I am proud to represent. Armstrong flew thousands of hours as a test pilot there, mainly in experimental jets and high-speed rocket planes. He was also part of the team in the early 1960s who developed the Lunar Landing Research Vehicle used to train our astronauts on how to safely land on the Moon.

After the success of the Apollo 11 mission, Armstrong remained an active contributor to the aeronautical research programs at the Flight Research Center. Most notably of these was the digital fly-by-wire program, which is recognized today as a far-reaching technological breakthrough. He returned to visit the center in the years that followed and, throughout his life, remained a strong advocate of flight research.

H.R. 667 would rename the NASA Center in his honor, the Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center.

H.R. 667 would also honor Dr. Hugh Dryden's contributions to aerospace engineering that made many of Neil Armstrong's career achievements possible.

Dryden was a key figure in the development of America's aerospace programs from the early part of the 20th century to the much more complex programs that are still ongoing at NASA Flight Research Center, Edwards Air Force Base, and China Lake Naval Air Station in my district.

He was an early pioneer in aerodynamics over the first half of the 20th century and enabled many scientific breakthroughs. When NASA was created in 1958, Dr. Dryden was chosen to be its first deputy administrator, focusing his energies on the programs that allowed our country to explore space and send our astronauts to the Moon.

H.R. 667 will memorialize both men by redesignating the Dryden Flight Research Center as the Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center and naming the center's test range as the Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range.

□ 1710

Edwards Air Force Base, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, and NASA Flight Research Center in eastern Kern County remain a hub of scientific discovery, aeronautic innovation and space exploration. I look forward to many more groundbreaking achievements from the men and women inspired by the legacy of Neil Armstrong and Hugh Dryden.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 667 is a fitting tribute to Armstrong and Dryden, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill to celebrate the remarkable lives of both men.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 667 has been offered to redesignate the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Dryden Flight Research Center as the Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center. The bill would also rename the Western Aeronautical Test Range as the Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range.

While I plan to support this bill, it is a bit unfortunate since it honors one aerospace pioneer by stripping away the honor previously extended to another worthy pioneer, Hugh L. Dryden.

Dr. Hugh Latimer Dryden was director of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, NACA, from 1947 until the creation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration where he was named deputy administrator.

President Johnson said of his passing that it was:

> A reason for national sorrow. No soldier ever performed his duty with more bravery, and no statesman ever charted new courses with more dedication than Hugh Dryden.
>
> Whenever the first American spaceman sets foot on the Moon or finds a new trail to a new star, he will know that Hugh Dryden was one of those who give him knowledge and illumination.

NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center in Edwards, California, was named in his honor on March 26, 1976. The center is NASA's premier site for aeronautical flight research. At the dedication ceremony, then-NASA Administrator, James Fletcher, stated:

> It is most fitting that this Flight Research Center, with its unique and highly specialized capability for solving aerospace problems, should memorialize the genius of Hugh Dryden.

Neil Armstrong joined NACA in 1955 following his service as a naval aviator. Over the next 17 years, he was an engineer, test pilot, astronaut and administrator for NACA and its successor agency, NASA.

As a research pilot, he flew over 200 different models of aircraft, such as the storied X–15. He transferred to astronaut status in 1962 and was command pilot for the Gemini 8 mission on which he performed the first successful docking of two vehicles in space. As spacecraft commander for Apollo 11, Neil Armstrong successfully led the first manned lunar landing. His service and his famous words, ''that's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind,'' inspired millions around the world, including this Congresswoman sitting in front of a black and white television.

Mr. Speaker, it's clear that Mr. Armstrong never sought the honor of having a NASA center named after him while alive. In truth, his name will live on throughout history whether or not we ever name anything for him. I doubt, in this era of declining funding for NASA, that either Neil Armstrong or Hugh Dryden would want a single precious dollar to be spent on a cosmetic facility name change when that money could be spent instead on fulfilling NASA's mission to reach for the stars. And, in fact, when Neil Armstrong appeared before our Science Committee, he almost said exactly that.

While I expect that we will approve this legislation today, I hope that all the Members who vote to honor Neil Armstrong today will remember his testimony before the House Science, Space and Technology Committee during which he said:

> The key to the success of American investment in space exploration is a clearly articulated plan and strategy supported by the administration and the Congress and implemented with all the consistency that the vagaries of the budget will allow. Such a program will motivate the young toward excellence, support a vital industry and earn the respect of the world.

I hope we can honor his words. But his words were foreshadowed by Hugh Dryden in a letter he wrote to Senator Robert Kerr, chairman of the Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences in 1961:

> The development of space science and technologies strengthen our whole industrial base and serves as insurance against technological obsolescence. Education will profit. The discipline of cooperation in a great national effort may well be the instrument of great social gain.

If the same Members who vote to rename these two NASA facilities today will commit to working in the coming months and years for those exploration goals to which both men devoted their lives, then we will have truly honored both of their legacies in an enduring and a meaningful way.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California, Majority Whip KEVIN MCCARTHY, for honoring Neil Armstrong and NASA Deputy Administrator Hugh Dryden with this bill. Not many people know the relationship between these two men. Hugh Dryden was the visionary behind NASA's X–15 rocket plane and the Apollo program. Neil Armstrong was the one who flew the spacecraft that Dryden envisioned.

The X–15 rocket plane set many speed and altitude records in the early 1960s. Hugh Dryden was the engineer

and program manager for that spacecraft which Neil Armstrong flew seven times.

While everyone knows that Neil Armstrong was the first man to set foot on the Moon, not many people know Hugh Dryden's role. The Soviets had launched the first satellite Sputnik in 1957, and cosmonaut Yuri Gargarin became the first man in space in April 1961.

President John F. Kennedy wanted to demonstrate American ingenuity and technical superiority over the Soviet Union, so he convened the National Space Council. President Kennedy asked for their advice on the best way for America to respond to the Soviet's string of firsts in space exploration. In that meeting, Hugh Dryden recommended to the President that the goal of putting a man on the Moon within 10 years was achievable and something the American people could rally behind.

The rest is history. President Kennedy grabbed Hugh Dryden's idea and addressed a joint session of Congress the very next month. The Apollo program was the brainchild of Hugh Dryden. Neal Armstrong turned that dream into reality by making that ''one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind'' on another world almost 240,000 miles away. Hugh Dryden was not able to see his dream become reality, as he died in 1965. And, unfortunately, Neil Armstrong passed away last August.

It is important for us to honor both men's legacies by naming the Flight Research Center after Neil Armstrong and the surrounding Test Range after Hugh Dryden. With this bill, we reaffirm that America is filled with dreamers like Hugh Dryden, and doers like Neil Armstrong, who—working together—can ''shoot for the Moon.'' Thanks to Mr. MCCARTHY, we honor their legacy, and that reminds us that America always needs to think about new frontiers.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL), former chairman of this committee.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. MCCARTHY for reintroducing this bill to redesignate NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center, which is co-located with Edwards Air Force Base in California, as the Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center. This bill, H.R. 667, would also rename the Western Aeronautical Test Range as the Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range.

Neil Armstrong, everybody will say—and it's so true, he needs absolutely no introduction—people know who Neil Armstrong is. He covered the country. He has given of his time. He's an American hero, and he is one who never took personal credit for his accomplishments. Anytime he was speaking about the success of the Apollo 11 mission, he always gave recognition to the teams of engineers, technicians, and scientists at NASA and the industry. He was quiet, thoughtful, and deliberate, choosing his words carefully, whether testifying before a congressional committee, giving a speech, or sharing a moment with a friend.

□ 1720

Last May of this year, I was honored to have Neil, along with General Tom Stafford and Gene Cernan, visit Rockwall, Texas, my hometown in Texas, and address graduating high school seniors from the area's public schools and private schools. Neil spoke to a packed auditorium of seniors and their families and then generously took time for photos with all the graduating classes. This was such a magnanimous gesture on his side and yet typical of his commitment to inspiring other generations of students to pursue fields in science, space, and technology. These Rockwall County students and their families will remember his visit forever, and this was made even more meaningful when Neil passed away just a few months later and when I received a letter from him 3 days after he died.

Naming the Dryden Flight Center after Neil is very appropriate. After graduating from college, he joined NASA's predecessor agency, the National Advisory Council on Aeronautics, and soon found himself at NASA's High-Speed Flight Station located at Edwards, which would in time become the Dryden Flight Research Center. They were both great friends. He spent 7 years there flying a variety of new-design and high-performance aircraft, including the seven flights at the control of the X–15.

Naming the Western Aeronautical Test Range after Dr. Hugh L. Dryden is also appropriate. Dr. Dryden, as a close friend of Neil's, held the position of Director of the National Advisory Council of Aeronautics from 1947 until it was renamed NASA in 1958, then served as Deputy Director of NASA until his death in 1965. He pioneered research of airfoils near the speed of sound and the problems of airflow and turbulence. He greatly contributed to the designs of wings for aircraft, including the P–51 Mustang and other World War II aircraft.

H.R. 667 honors the life and legacy of two great Americans: Neil Armstrong and Dr. Hugh Dryden.

With that, I urge Members to support this bill.

Ms. EDWARDS. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), who has long been an able spokesman on the issues related to space.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I proudly stand with my good friend and fellow Californian, Majority Whip KEVIN MCCARTHY, in strong support of this legislation we have both championed, H.R. 667, which will redesignate NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center as the Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center and Western Aeronautical Test Range as the Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range.

One of the great benefits of public service here in the United States House of Representatives is the people you meet in all walks of life. I had the high honor and privilege of meeting Mr. Armstrong on several occasions before he passed away on August 25, 2012, especially when I was chairman of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee on Science.

Given his place as a revered global icon, Neil never sought the limelight, as Mr. HALL has said. He never lost his unassuming manner, his nature as a midwesterner, and values that his Ohio roots instilled in him. He was just a wonderful person.

Those of us who were old enough to witness firsthand when he took his first step on the surface of the Moon will never forget the great sense of pride in our country and inspiration in the ability he placed in mankind. There are few events in history that have had such profound and positive impact, transcending generations across the globe. H.R. 667 is just one way we can pay tribute to this great American hero.

This bill will accomplish three important goals: one, to honor Neil A. Armstrong, who served as an experimental research test pilot at the center from 1955 to 1962; to emphasize the contributions of that center to NASA's current space exploration mission; and to memorialize the extraordinary career of Dr. Hugh L. Dryden by naming the aeronautical test range, approximately 12,000 square miles of special-use airspace, in his honor.

As was said: That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind. This is a small step to recognize both Neil Armstrong and Hugh Dryden.

I urge my House colleagues to support passage of H.R. 667.

Ms. EDWARDS. I'd inquire if the gentleman has additional speakers?

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I believe we have one additional speaker.

Ms. EDWARDS. I'll continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I will recognize the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) for as much time as he may consume, and I also note that he is the vice chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 667 as a way for us to honor the memories of Neil Armstrong and Dr. Hugh Dryden.

These two men, these two 20th century frontiersmen, technologists, and, yes, visionaries, these two men who led us and, thus, led our country into a new era of human history, the era of aerospace when the technology of mankind uplifted mankind into the air and then into the heavens, this is an era that we are just now seeing the very

first steps, and these were the men who pushed the frontier and made those first steps.

Neil Armstrong's name will be one of the few iconic names from our era that are found in history books 1,000 years from now. Most people know him as a brave astronaut who commanded Apollo 11; but before those days, Neil Armstrong was an outstanding aeronautical engineer and a great pilot for the U.S. Navy and for the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics, the NACA, a precursor to NASA. Neil flew over 900 missions at the NACA High-Speed Air Station, and that very center is what we seek to name in his honor today.

At the same time, we wish to continue to recognize the major and significant contributions of Dr. Hugh Dryden, one of the world's greatest aeronautical scientists who provided critical leadership to the NACA and is reported to be the man who gave President Kennedy the idea that a Moon landing was the right benchmark for America to set as we worked to catch up with the Soviet Union in space.

Today we honor these great men, and by supporting this legislation, we will continue to support them in every way and continue to support NASA in its test-flight mission.

Let us not forget so many people just associate NASA with space, and Neil Armstrong is one of those people. But as I've just pointed out, their work in developing new technology for aerospace and for jet engines and the design of airplanes has had a tremendous impact on our way of life and made America the great aerospace power in the world. So as we honor them today, we reconfirm our commitment to being the number one space power and the number one aerospace power on the planet.

Ms. EDWARDS. I'd inquire if the gentleman is prepared to close as well.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to close. We have no other speakers, and I'm prepared to yield back the balance of my time after the gentlewoman from Maryland.

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

I am pleased today that we've been able to bring forward H.R. 667.

Former Chairman HALL was here today, and we had an opportunity to do this in the last Congress. So hopefully, in honor of these two gentlemen, real tremendous patriots and heroes and pioneers, we will be able to bring forward H.R. 667 and rename the Dryden Center after Neil Armstrong. I'm grateful to be here to do that with our colleagues.

It is sad, however, that here we are on a Monday, prepared to honor these two great patriots of NASA, of this Nation, and at the same time, by the close of the week, on March 1, enable a sequester to take effect which could result in the loss of $894 million from NASA's budget, a budget that would include science, technology, engineering, investigation of climate change, and all of the things that we need to prepare this next generation to be as inspired as our generation was with the exploits and exploration of Hugh Dryden and Neil Armstrong. Yet here we are.

□ 1730

So I am pleased to go forward in supporting this legislation today, making sure that on a Monday we are able to take a vote to rename these two centers and to honor these two pioneers. But I am sad that here in this Congress we are also prepared to cut millions of dollars in a budget that should be spent on the kind of science and exploration that both of these gentlemen pioneered.

When we think of what needs to be done for the next generation in order to inspire future scientists and those who will work in technology—our engineers, our math students—we regret that they won't see that same kind of inspiration because of the irresponsibility of this Congress. I want to say how pleased I am as I look forward to working with Chairman SMITH, because I know of his commitment to science and to technology, and I know of his commitment to NASA and to moving forward an agency that's going to propel us in 21st century space science and in aeronautics, but this is not the way to do it.

While we do our renaming today in honor of Hugh Dryden and in honor of Neil Armstrong, we will take an ax hammer to NASA's budget on March 1, at the end of this week, taking out $894 million from an already strapped budget. I dare say that future generations will not be inspired by what this Congress will do, will not be inspired by what the majority is doing by not allowing us and enabling us to sit down and actually negotiate in a way that is going to result in our making the kind of investment in the 21st century that our young people deserve.

Again, I am pleased to be able to redesignate the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Dryden Flight Research Center as the ''Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center'' and to rename the Western Aeronautical Test Range as the ''Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range''—renaming but slashing a budget.

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman from Maryland—who is also the ranking member of the Space Subcommittee—for her comments, particularly for her personal comments, and I certainly share her concerns about the severe cuts that NASA and our space exploration programs might take if the sequestration goes into effect, but I also feel compelled to point out that there is a way to avoid that sequestration.

The House of Representatives, under the Republican leadership, has already passed two bills that would take the place of the sequestration, and the Senate has yet to act. After all, the sequestration was the President's idea to start with, so I hope we will hear from the President and the Senate various suggestions as to how the sequestration can be avoided, but the House has certainly done its job to avoid those heavy-handed cuts.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 667.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order: agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, by the yeas and nays; and suspending the rules and passing H.R. 667, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 303, nays 91, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 46]

YEAS—303

Aderholt
Alexander
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Beatty
Becerra
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cicilline
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Grayson
Green, Al
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Pocan
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Rice (SC)
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Upton
Van Hollen
Vargas
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Yoho
Young (IN)

NAYS—91

Amash
Bass
Benishek
Bishop (NY)
Burgess
Capuano
Carson (IN)
Carter
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chu
Coffman
Conaway
Cotton
Courtney
Crowley
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
Dent
Fitzpatrick
Foxx
Fudge
Gardner
Gibson
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grijalva
Hastings (FL)
Heck (NV)
Herrera Beutler
Himes
Hoyer
Hudson
Israel
Jeffries
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jordan
Kinzinger (IL)
Langevin
Latham
Latta
Levin
LoBiondo
Marchant
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McDermott
McGovern
Miller (FL)
Neal
Nolan
Pallone
Paulsen
Pearce
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Price (GA)
Radel
Rahall
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Sewell (AL)
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tipton
Turner
Valadao
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Owens

NOT VOTING—36

Barton
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Buchanan
Campbell
Clarke
Coble
Costa
Culberson
Davis, Danny
Deutch
Doggett
Forbes
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gutierrez
Hanna
Joyce
Lee (CA)
Lewis
Lucas
Lynch
Maffei
Meng
Moran
Pastor (AZ)
Richmond
Roe (TN)
Rush
Smith (NE)
Smith (WA)
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

□ 1852

Messrs. CROWLEY, GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. GARCIA and TONKO changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

NEIL A. ARMSTRONG FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER AND HUGH L. DRYDEN AERONAUTICAL TEST RANGE DESIGNATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 667) to redesignate the Dryden Flight Research Center as the Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center and the Western Aeronautical Test Range as the Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 394, nays 0, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 47]

YEAS—394

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen

Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radel
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Johnson, E. B.

NOT VOTING—36

Barton
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Buchanan
Campbell
Clarke
Coble
Conyers
Culberson
Davis, Danny
Deutch
Doggett
Forbes
Gingrey (GA)
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hanna
Joyce
Lee (CA)
Lucas
Lynch
Maffei
Meng
Moran
Pastor (AZ)
Richmond
Roe (TN)
Rush
Smith (NE)
Smith (WA)
Stutzman
Whitfield
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

□ 1900

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 46 on approving the Journal, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a death in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 47 on H.R. 667, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a death in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

HONORING THE WOMEN OF TOMORROW MENTOR AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I'm so pleased to recognize Women of Tomorrow, a community organization that encourages and empowers at-risk high school girls to develop to their fullest potential. This south Florida-based organization was founded in 1997 by Jennifer Valoppi and is now in 43 Florida and 13 Michigan cities, helping 2,500 girls in over 100 high schools.

Women of Tomorrow has a bright future and will expand and connect girls across the country to mentoring scholarship opportunities. It's celebrating 16 years of teaching professional and personal skills.

Over 90 percent of the young ladies mentored by Women of Tomorrow improve their grade point average, graduate from high school, pursue higher education, and improve their self-esteem immensely.

The mentors and supporters of Women of Tomorrow work tirelessly to help teens, and I congratulate them on their Sweet 16.

SEQUESTRATION BY THE NUMBERS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we're hearing a lot about sequestration on the news, the American people are, and I just want to run down sequestration by the numbers.

You know, it's been 290 days since I and my Republican colleagues voted for the first of two bills to replace the President's sequestration with smarter, more responsible spending cuts that total $1 trillion over 10 years. Now, why is that needed?

Well, Mr. Speaker, the official debt today is $15.5 trillion. That's $50,000 for every man, woman and child in this country. And that's not the real debt. The real debt, when you look at what's due with every living individual today with Medicare and Social Security, that's somewhere between 71 and $72 trillion.

Economists just a week or so ago estimated that by the year 2020, interest alone, interest alone on an annual basis will be $1 trillion. Sequestration, we're looking at $85 billion out of a $3 trillion budget.

I'm going to call on the Senate Democrats and President Obama for smarter, more bipartisan ways to replace the Obama sequester and to address making sure we don't leave a legacy of debt for our children, grandchildren, and all future generations.

TIME TO WORK TOGETHER

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

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I often hear from folks who work hard but are struggling to make ends meet. Families across southern Illinois are frustrated with the complacency in Washington.

Unless we act, nearly $1.2 trillion will be cut from defense and domestic programs. Scott Air Force Base, a major economic hub, the largest employer in my district and a vital component of our national security, would be hard hit, as would important programs that keep our children and our Nation safe.

If sequestration goes into effect, 1 million jobs could be in jeopardy. It is irresponsible to let a failed plan with an artificial deadline and politically manufactured crisis cost our workers, our veterans, our men and women in uniform, our seniors, our small businesses their livelihood and risk our fragile economy.

It's time for Congress to set aside partisanship and to work together to produce a comprehensive solution that responsibly addresses the deficit but doesn't cost jobs.

□ 1910

CONGRATULATING EDEN PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS NORDIC SKI TEAM

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Eden Prairie Boys Nordic Ski Team for becoming State champions this year. For the first time in nearly 30 years, the Eagles' boys team claimed the State Nordic ski championship title after an excellent performance in the Nordic competition at Giants Ridge earlier this month. The team had an outstanding season and proved their ability and determination in the finals.

Seniors Tom Bye and Ryan Stewart both finished in the top 10, and Henry Zurn and Jay Grootwassink also attained all-State honors. Also deserving of praise, Mr. Speaker, are the coaches, including Coach Doug Boonstra, also known as ''Boonie,'' whose leadership and unwavering support helped motivate these student athletes.

Congratulations to the students, their parents, the coaching staff, and to everybody who helped contribute to the success of the Eagles team.

SEQUESTER EFFECTS ON NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

Ms. KUSTER. If Congress fails to act, the sequester is going to trigger mindless, across-the-board cuts that will hurt middle class New Hampshire families and undermine our economy. There's no question we do need to reduce the deficit, but we have to do it in a balanced way that distinguishes between wasteful spending we cannot afford to keep and critical investments we cannot afford to cut.

We cannot afford to cut investments in research at colleges like Dartmouth

and UNH. We cannot afford to cut investments in programs that prepare our students for the 21st century economy, like those at Nashua Community College. We cannot afford to cut investments in critical defense systems produced by companies like BAE, that protect our troops and create good jobs.

The only way to protect these priorities while avoiding the sequester is for both parties to pass a balanced, bipartisan plan that will responsibly reduce the deficit, grow our economy, and protect middle class families. Now is the time for Congress to step up and do its job.

CONGRATULATING THE STEPHENVILLE YELLOW JACKETS

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. I rise to salute the mighty Stephenville Yellow Jackets for winning their fifth State championship in football.

Texas football has been written about in TV shows, movies, and books, but Hollywood's version isn't nearly as exciting as the real thing. During the 2012 high school football season, Stephenville lost only one game as it prepared to enter the playoffs. In the championship game, quarterback Tyler Jones threw for five touchdowns and 422 yards and rushed for another 126.

What makes this team so remarkable is not only that it won, but that it was worthy of winning. These are good kids who do credit to their school and their town. Stephenville, Texas, is the cowboy capital of the world. The 17,000 Texans who live there are patriotic, passionate people who take care of business and take care of their neighbors; and, like their high school team, they are winners at everything they do.

I am proud to represent Stephenville, Texas, in the United States Congress, and I am proud to salute the Yellow Jackets on their fifth State title. I look forward to congratulating them next year on another championship.

INVESTING IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, many will be hurt by the sequester, but San Diego will be hurt in particular. Today, I'm here to urge Congress to work together to find a bipartisan solution to sequestration.

The Port of San Diego is our window to national and international commerce, as well as a main driver of our economy. The Port of San Diego is the fourth largest port in California, and one of 17 commercial strategic ports in America, overseeing two maritime cargo terminals, two cruise ship terminals, and hundreds of maritime leases to small businesses.

Since 2001, the port has received almost $22 million in Federal funding for critical infrastructure projects, which has allowed the port to hire more San Diegans and boost San Diego's economy. The American Society of Engineers found that with an additional investment of $15.8 billion between now and 2020, our national system of ports could provide $270 billion in U.S. exports and $697 billion in GDP.

Now is not the time to be cutting critical investments in our infrastructure. Let's work together to find a solution.

HONORING MR. JAMES E. WALKER

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a great American, Mr. James E. Walker.

Mr. Walker was born on April 12, 1924, in Gulfport, Mississippi. He grew up in a close-knit family of seven children. After graduating from Woolmarket High School, he joined the United States Marine Corps and served in World War II from 1942 to 1945. Upon returning home, he earned a degree in engineering and became the engineering supervisor at the VA in Biloxi, retiring after 35 years.

Mr. Walker was also the loving husband of Helen Peterson Walker. They wed on February 21, 1946, exactly 67 years to the date of his recent passing.

Mr. Walker was known for his love of trout fishing, his hometown of Gulfport, Mississippi, and most importantly, his family. I stand before you today and declare without a shadow of a doubt that he was the epitome of what we consider a member of the Greatest Generation.

Mr. Walker, you will be missed, not only by your family, but also by the country you so faithfully served in the Marine Corps. Semper fidelis.

SEQUESTER AND THE CHILDREN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Because they have no voting rights, a group that we don't hear a lot about is children. On Friday, March 1, our children will be in the eye of the storm. The sequester that will occur will impact children, particularly Head Start.

So many of my Head Start organizations have cried out for relief and Title I funding, so I want to say to them that we are going to come together. It may not be on Friday, but we know that we're going to look forward to overturn what has been a process that was put in place because President Obama and the Democrats were ready to make sure the government was going to run and others were not.

Now we have a crisis, but that crisis will not last long because we Democrats will put children first and find a solution to ensure that the American people have the resources that are necessary to provide services to ensure the quality of life that their tax dollars pay for. We must have revenue and, yes, we must have spending responsibility, but we cannot undermine the American people.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong disappointment in the House Republican leadership in committing such legislative malpractice by failing to do anything about automatic spending cuts that will happen this Friday.

Here we are on the brink of another economic disaster manufactured by Washington, and, just as before, this crisis will have real consequences to real people. In my district alone, schools will lose $11 million in Federal funding. California will be losing $87.6 million in funding for primary and secondary schools. Fewer students will be learning and more teachers will be out of work.

There's a rational way to approach balancing the people's budget, and this is not it. We can cut foolish spending without foolishly cutting spending.

H.R. 699, of which I'm a cosponsor, would replace this meat-cleaver method of budgeting with a balanced approach. It would include additional revenue from multimillionaires and smart cuts for unnecessary spending.

We might not agree on what the right way to cut spending is, but we also should agree that using broad, indiscriminate cuts is the wrong way to cut spending. Let's come together to pass legislation to avert these cuts.

□ 1920

RECOGNIZING DR. IRVING FRADKIN

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Irving Fradkin of Fall River, Massachusetts, a finalist for the national ''Citizen Service Before Self'' award.

The son of Russian immigrants, Dr. Fradkin's story of service began in the late 1950s. As an optometrist opening his new practice in a struggling former mill city, he was immediately struck by how few of his young patients had plans to go to college. When he asked why, the response was always a simple answer: My parents can't afford it.

At the time, the average cost of tuition was a couple hundred dollars a year. Dr. Fradkin did the math. He figured that if each of Fall River's 30,000

households gave a single dollar, they could send every single graduating senior in the city to college. And so Dollars for Scholars was born.

With the deep faith and compassion of a tight-knit community, Dr. Fradkin began collecting as little as $1 from his neighbors and friends to provide scholarships to the local students. Over four decades later, what began as a card table operation in a determined Massachusetts town became Scholarship America, an organization that has awarded nearly $3 billion in scholarships across 38 States.

At 92 years old, Dr. Fradkin continues to fight for that city that he loves and the students that have made his life's work. Tonight, I congratulate him and his wife, Charlotte, on a recognition deeply deserved.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, when the Republicans refer to President Obama's sequestration, they must think that no one in the country remembers the events of the last 2 years. Remember that 2 years ago, the Republicans blackmailed the entire country by saying that they would not permit the debt ceiling to be increased and they would force the country to default on its debts—and in fact destroy the economy—unless we cut the budget by $2.4 trillion. We cut it by $1.2 trillion. But no one could figure out, no one could agree how to cut another $1.2 trillion, so both parties put in the sequester to kick the can down the road on this entirely artificial demand for an extra $1.2 trillion in cuts. That's why we're here now facing an economic catastrophe—because of the blackmail of an even worse catastrophe of failing to pay our bills, of calling into question the full faith and credit of the United States. That's what got us to this point. The only way to get us out is either to just repeal the entire sequester entirely—because we've made enough budget cuts—or to say, all right, we'll do half the budget, half the $1.2 trillion in cuts, and half by adopting loophole-closing measures that the Republicans themselves supported last year.

SEQUESTER REBUTTAL

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I was sitting in the back of the House, listening to some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and I just had to rise to answer some of the things that they just said.

The gentlewoman from Texas was talking about sequester and the effect that it would have on children. I'd like to remind the gentlewoman from Texas that the effect that the millions—or billions and trillions—of dollars of debt we are leaving on the backs of our children is going to have an equally negative effect.

This sequester—we are accused of not doing anything on this side. We have passed two bills out of this House doing away with the sequester, but they have not been acted on by the President or the Senate. We have done our job.

The President has asked for a balanced approach. He got his increase in revenue; it's now time to come up with some cuts. Sequester isn't the way to do it, but we cannot give up on getting rid of wasteful spending here in Washington.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN SAM JOHNSON ON 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF RELEASE FROM PRISONER OF WAR CAMP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about a remarkable individual that serves with us in the House of Representatives.

We are really surrounded by remarkable people, 435 individuals who came from other walks of life. Most of them had other careers before they came to the House of Representatives. But tonight, we're going to talk about the anniversary of one individual. Because, you see, 40 years ago, Colonel SAM JOHNSON was released as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. He had spent 7 years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

It all started when he was flying one of his F–4s, being a pilot. This was not a new experience. I mean, after all, he had served in Korea and flew 62 combat missions in an F–86 Sabre called Shirley's Texas Tornado, after his wife, Shirley. So he flew 62 in the Korean war; Vietnam, he's on his 25th mission flying an F–4 Phantom. He left Laotian airspace, came into North Vietnam, and he was shot down by ground fire. This was not his first tour of duty in Vietnam; it was his second tour of duty. SAM JOHNSON is an American warrior.

After he was shot down on this day, April 16, 1966, his life took a turn, a different turn. When he parachuted out of his plane, his shoulder was injured—of course the Vietnamese, they didn't do anything to help his injuries, and he still carries some of those wounds from his prisoner days and from when he crashed or when he came back down to Earth in that parachute. He was captured by the North Vietnamese Army and he was put in a prisoner of war camp.

The North Vietnamese probably developed prisoner of war camps better than anyplace on Earth. They were hard, they were tough, they were mean, and not everybody survived those camps. So he spent 7 years as a prisoner of war, and they interrogated him every day. But SAM never gave in. In fact, the Vietnamese called him ''Die Hard.'' He was the first person that I know of that was called ''Die Hard'' because he would never die no matter how hard they beat him.

He was so obstinate, Mr. Speaker, that they sent him to the infamous ''Hanoi Hilton''—satire, of course; it was everything but a hotel—and put him in a section called Alcatraz, where he and 11 obstinate prisoners of war were put together. SAM JOHNSON was so tough, would never break, would never give information, that they finally put him in solitary confinement.

Mr. Speaker, I want to describe the cell to you that he spent 4 years of his life in—solitary confinement. It was 3 feet by 9 feet. It's about the size of this table, 3 feet, over to about that podium, 9 feet. That was his cell. That's where he was for 4 years. They left the light on constantly. At night, they would come in and put him in leg irons—4 years solitary confinement. But he never gave up.

He learned how to communicate with other prisoners by tapping on the wall. He learned the names of the other 374 members, memorized their names so that when he got out—because he expected to get out—that he could tell their families that they were there.

But he never broke. He was never broken. He continued to do what he was supposed to do to honor America and represent America, but he never gave information to America's enemies.

So tonight, we commemorate his 40th anniversary of being released from that prisoner of war camp when the war was over. Seven years of his life he gave to this country in a camp that most of us would never survive.

At this time, I'd like to yield to the majority leader, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR).

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, we are here tonight to honor and celebrate our friend, SAM JOHNSON, the gentleman from Texas that we all know as a friend and colleague, but that I think America knows as a hero.

SAM, as the gentleman from Texas points out, was awarded two Silver Stars and two Purple Hearts, among his many other decorations, for fighting bravely for freedom, and for 7 years SAM JOHNSON was held as a prisoner of war by the North Vietnamese—the horror of which none of us will ever know

but lies deep within the soul of this great American patriot.

□ 1930

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the 40th anniversary of his freedom is reason for celebration and is the reason we are gathered here in the Chamber tonight. SAM's heroism and bravery are acts for which all Americans owe him a debt of gratitude.

But I'd also like to talk about our friend, SAM. Mr. Speaker, it's no exaggeration when I say I believe that SAM JOHNSON is the moral compass of our conference. He considers every issue fairly, and he's never afraid to reach across the aisle and work with Members there or on our side of the aisle or with freshman Members, as he did with me when I first came to Congress in 2001.

As many of us know, SAM and Shirley JOHNSON recently lost their son, Bob. All of us would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the Johnsons for their loss. Over these past weeks, we all saw anew the grace and humility that SAM carries with him every day.

Mr. Speaker, that's SAM. America and his beloved Texas are better places because of his decades-long service. And my life, Mr. Speaker, has been immeasurably enriched by our friendship.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the majority leader for his important words.

I now yield to the gentleman from Texas, Mr. PETE SESSIONS.

Mr. SESSIONS. I appreciate the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for leading the discussion tonight in honor of the great Member of Congress from the Third Congressional District, SAM JOHNSON. I want to take a few minutes tonight to not just acknowledge how great SAM JOHNSON is to the Texas delegation but really to highlight what he means to this body.

SAM JOHNSON has been a Member of this body since 1991. He came in a special election as a result of a hard-fought race in Dallas, Texas, when Congressman Steve Bartlett stepped down. And SAM JOHNSON came to the United States Congress not just with a background of 29 years of serving in the United States Air Force as being a top gun pilot and a man who had served this country in war and at the Hanoi Hilton, but he came here with thoughts and ideas about his home of Texas, representing Collin County and Dallas County, Texas.

It's not just a high honor for us to have SAM as our Member of Congress at that time and currently, but SAM came to this body with ideas that he felt like would make our country stronger and better. More than just respect for the flag and respect for the men and women that serve in our military, but really for respect for human life and individuals, he believes that individuals make our country stronger and better; and he has devoted his life, the times we fly back and forth, SAM talks about how important people are and people's dreams, people back home. He remembers not just the stories about individuals, but I think he idolizes hard work and people who commit themselves to the sacrifice for others.

SAM is known in this body for several years now as the most admired Member of Congress. And he's not the most admired Member of Congress because of just being a nice man—and that he is—but really for standing up and talking about the values of this country, the values of this country, what we stand for and how he wants it to be even better.

He and Shirley have, for years, stood up across Texas and across this country and talked about how important we are if we sacrifice to make others' lives better, if we leave our country better than the way we found it. And so tonight on behalf of the people of the 32nd Congressional District, which is Dallas, which is right next to Congressman SAM JOHNSON, I stand up and applaud the life of SAM JOHNSON, his service to our country, not just the United States Air Force and the American people, but also the man that calls home Plano, Texas, and the Third Congressional District, our great friend and colleague, Congressman SAM JOHNSON.

So, SAM, congratulations. Congratulations for not just a job well done but for the 40 years that you have been back home and what you have done to your life as a result of the service for what you believe was the right thing to do.

I thank the gentleman from Texas, Judge POE, for the time.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman. The gentleman, Mr. SESSIONS, points out a little-known fact that after Colonel SAM JOHNSON got out of that prisoner-of-war camp, he stayed in the Air Force and served a total of 29 years. He also served in the famed Thunderbirds. He has quite a remarkable Air Force career.

I now yield to the gentleman from Texas, Mr. RALPH HALL, the senior member of the Texas delegation and the House of Representatives.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague. I do rise, as others, today for a great American and a very dear friend, SAM JOHNSON. It's been said over and over again about Operation Homecoming, but that's one of the great days that I remember. And I'm sure it's in SAM's mind and heart and that he appreciates all of us here getting to say a few words about him.

He served, as you know, for 29 years in the United States Air Force flying combat missions in both Korea and Vietnam, captured by enemy forces, going to spend 7 years in captivity as a prisoner of war, including 42 months of solitary confinement. Despite that confinement, SAM never lost his faith in God. He continued to show leadership and courage, helping to teach other prisoners how to survive. Through those 7 years, SAM remained committed to staying strong and helping other fellow soldiers doing the same thing.

Finally, on February 12, 1973, he returned to U.S. soil with other fellow American servicemen in what was known as Operation Homecoming. Once home, he was united with his wife, Shirley, who faithfully waited and prayed for SAM's safe return.

It's a fact about SAM's fighting for our country. He also suffered for our country. This isn't the prime reason his constituents vote for him, though it would be enough; but SAM is completely aware of the rules of the House of Representatives and one of the Speaker's leading whips. When SAM speaks, we listen.

SAM and Shirley suffered the loss of a son the last week of February. I hope they felt the love and grief we shared with them and the family. We know that grief is addressed in the Bible. Love spawns grief, and without love there's little grief. There is much love in the Johnson family for their neighbors and friends. For the approximately 7 years SAM and the others suffered in the Hanoi Hilton, a 4-letter word was always on their mind: home.

In closing, let me just say that SAM continues to fight on behalf of our veterans and members of the armed services. After 40 years, he continues to serve the American people with the same strength and resolve that he demonstrated in Vietnam. I'm truly honored to have the opportunity to serve with such an exemplary American and to call him a friend. SAM's commitment to his country, faith, and family are values that every American should live by. I ask all my colleagues, of course, to vote ''aye.''

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a great American and a dear friend of mine, SAM JOHNSON, in honor of the 40th Anniversary of "Operation Homecoming." On February 12, 1973, 591 American prisoners of war, including SAM JOHNSON, returned from Vietnam after being held as prisoners for seven years. SAM is the epitome of a true American hero. His unwavering dedication to freedom and to serving his country exemplifies what it means to be a patriot.

SAM served for 29 years in the United States Air Force, flying combat missions in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. In 1966, during one of his missions, SAM's plane was shot down over North Vietnam. He was captured by enemy forces and would go on to spend seven years in captivity as a Prisoner of War, including 42 months of solitary confinement.

"After his capture, SAM was sent with 10 other POWs to a special facility where they were kept in solitary confinement from 1967–1969. Self-named the "Alcatraz Gang," they were sent there for their strong resistance against their captors. They were shackled in legcuffs every night and endured continued torture. SAM never lost hope, and remained unbreakable against his torturers. SAM, along with the other members of the "Alcatraz Gang," was moved back to the infamous Hanoi Hilton where he served out the remainder of his time in Vietnam.

Despite his confinement, SAM never lost his faith in God. He continued to show leadership and courage, helping to teach other prisoners

how to survive. Throughout those seven years, SAM remained committed to staying strong and helping other fellow soldiers to do the same.

Finally on February 12, 1973, SAM returned to U.S. soil with other fellow American servicemen in what was known as "Operation Homecoming." Once home, he was reunited with his wife Shirley, who faithfully waited and prayed for SAM's safe return.

SAM and I shared Collin County for many years in the U.S. Congress and we would often speak to constituents together. I always dreaded to compare my war service as a fighter pilot with the Navy with SAM's service. His record, every phase, was so much more admirable and dangerous than my several years, that I felt like I had run off to Canada.

As a fact, about SAM's fighting for our country, he also suffered for our country. This isn't the prime reason his constituents vote for him, though it would be enough. SAM is completely aware of the rules of the House of Representatives and is one of the Speaker's leading Whips. When SAM speaks, we listen.

SAM and Shirley suffered the loss of a son the last week of February, and I hope they felt the love and grief we shared with them and the family. We know that grief is addressed in the Bible. Love spawns grief, and without love, there is little grief. There is much love in the Johnson family, and their neighbors and friends.

For the approximately seven years SAM and the others suffered in the Hanoi Hilton, a four-letter word was always on their mind: HOME.

My dad was in WWI, and he went overseas with the same soldiers, and returned back to the USA with many of those he fought with. To show how much they loved home and the sight of the Statue of Liberty, as they entered the New York Harbor, one of my dad's friends said to the Statue of Liberty, "Old lady, if you ever see me again, you are going to have to turn around." That's what going home meant to most Veterans of the various wars.

SAM continues to fight on behalf of our veterans and members of the Armed Services. After 40 years, he continues to serve the American people with the same strength and resolve that he demonstrated in Vietnam. I am truly honored to have the opportunity to serve with such an exemplary American, and to call him "friend." SAM's commitment to his country, faith, and family, are values that every American should live by. I ask all my colleagues present today to join me in honoring such an outstanding American hero, SAM JOHNSON.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman for his wise words.

I now yield to the gentlewoman from Fort Worth, Texas, Ms. KAY GRANGER.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, we're here tonight to honor our friend and colleague, SAM JOHNSON, a man of service, a man of faith, and a man of tremendous courage.

SAM was released from captivity 40 years ago as part of Operation Homecoming. It was a plan to bring home POWs. As part of the Paris Peace Accords of 1973, 591 POWs were brought home as part of that operation, and our dear friend, SAM, was one of those.

Sometimes there are people that do great things but very few people know about it, people in their family or a few close friends. SAM JOHNSON's life has not been that way because it's been recognized because his achievements are so outstanding and he's been such a leader. So I think those recognitions deserve to be repeated tonight: two Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Bronze Star with Valor, two Purple Hearts, four Air Medals, three Outstanding Unit Awards; and the Congressional Medal of Honor Society gave JOHNSON their highest civilian accolade, the National Patriot Award.

SAM, it's such an honor for all of us to serve in this House with you, be a friend of yours and learn from you. Thank you for all your service.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, Mr. MICHAEL CONAWAY.

□ 1940

Mr. CONAWAY. I thank the gentleman from Texas for setting up this evening to honor our friend and colleague, SAM JOHNSON.

SAM'S career and exploits have been talked about several times now, and I won't repeat those, but there are a couple of things I would like to highlight. One, not only was he an Air Force pilot, but he was also a member of the elite Thunderbirds, which is the Air Force's best of the best. That is a demonstration team that goes across this country and around the world representing the Air Force, representing our country.

Another thing about SAM is that he had the good fortune of marrying Shirley. If you read SAM's book, ''Captive Warriors,'' one of the most poignant parts of that book is Shirley's unwavering, steadfast belief that SAM was still alive. There was a long time while SAM was in captivity that we didn't have proof of life. Shirley was being told by some very influential folks that SAM had perished, and she just flat out simply refused to believe that, throughout all of the evidence. And so for a number of years there she held that vigil, and it was rewarded, of course, by SAM's coming home some 40 years ago this week.

I don't have a lot of heroes on this Earth. SAM JOHNSON is one of them. If I ever get around to writing memoirs and somebody asked me what am I the most proud of of service in this House, one of those things will be being able to say that I'm among the select and privileged group to have served with SAM JOHNSON. He is a warrior of the best order, and it is with the most heartfelt emotions that I can muster that I thank him for his service. If I count the years correctly, it's 29 in the Air Force, 10 years in the Texas Legislature, and some 22 years here. That's 61 years. I don't know how old SAM is, but that has got to be about half his life anyway.

So it is with great pleasure that I thank SAM for his long service to our country. Thank you, SAM.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Texas.

I now yield to the gentleman from Round Rock, Texas, Judge JOHN CARTER.

Mr. CARTER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

SAM JOHNSON is an American hero, and everybody in this House knows that. He's an American hero for all kinds of ways that he served this country. Many of the people here are going to talk about those ways, and every one of them are important.

I read SAM's book. It's an awesome book. It makes you cry at points; it makes you struggle. But it also expresses the kind of a man and, quite frankly, the kind of a family SAM JOHNSON has.

SAM was a guy with a broken leg, dislocated shoulders, who looked them straight in the eye and spit in their face and told them to take their best shot. And he suffered for it, he suffered unmercifully for it, but he never gave in to the enemy. He always stood his ground, to his detriment, and it harmed him in so many physical ways. And yet the thing that makes me always tear up is you read the part of the book where SAM steps off that plane, when we finally repatriated our prisoners, and saluted and said, Colonel SAM JOHNSON reporting for duty, sir. And SAM reports for duty.

People say, Who do you want to have your back in a foxhole? But people also say, Who do you want to have your back in Congress? I want SAM JOHNSON to have my back in Congress. He's a friend. He's one of my best friends in this Congress. I've gotten to know him very well. He and I go to a Christian retreat together almost every year.

And that's one of the things you notice from the book. SAM didn't talk about himself. He talked about when they took him out and he thought, This time they're going to shoot me. He prayed to God that he could stand there and be a man. And they went, Ready, aim, fire, click, and one more time they didn't shoot him. And at that time he thanked God and his Savior, because he knew he had witnessed a miracle.

Meanwhile, his sweet wife was praying and fighting on the home front because she didn't know. She got very little news about what was going on in SAM's life, but she never gave up because her faith strengthened her. And that's part of the theme of that book that you need to pick up and read, that their faith strengthened them in trials that none of us can ever imagine.

SAM JOHNSON is a hero, not just because of what went on in Vietnam and what our enemy did to him. He's a hero because he comes here every day and he fights for the people of his district and for the State and for this country. He's willing to take a risk and step out, even now after all the years of service, both legislatively and in the Congress. SAM JOHNSON is one who is willing to step out and take the shots.

I was once asked by ''60 Minutes'' to define what a leader is, and I said,

Well, I'm just a history guy who reads history. I always thought in the First World War how hard it would have been to come out of those trenches and charge those machine guns with a bolt-action rifle, and that the officers who climbed out in front and said, ''Let's go, boys; let's go get 'em,'' were the heroes, and the guys that stayed in the bottom and said, ''You go get 'em, boys,'' they were not heroes. And a special hero is one who says, ''I'm going first and I'll take the shots.''

There's plenty of shots to be had in this Chamber, and those are political shots. But I'm proud to say that that same hero that spit in the enemy's face, SAM JOHNSON, is still willing to stand up and take the shots in Congress. And for that reason, I today honor my good friend SAM JOHNSON and tell him I want him to keep taking care of my back, because I need it real bad.

God bless you, SAM. You're my friend.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, Judge CARTER points out something that happened to SAM JOHNSON during that 7 years that a lot of people don't realize.

When he was in that little cell, 3-foot by 9-foot, he was so obstinate, the North Vietnamese Army would take him out of the cell; they would beat him up. He would never break. They would get so mad at that, that he wouldn't break, that they would line him up against the wall and they would tell him they're going to shoot him. They would blindfold him. They would get their AK–47s ready and, as Judge CARTER mentioned, they would pull the trigger—click, click, click—then they would laugh at him.

SAM JOHNSON would say, ''Is that the best you got? Is that the best you got?'' He didn't take anything from the Vietnamese, even though they tried to do everything they could to break him down.

That's what makes him so remarkable. You may notice, Mr. Speaker, he's sitting back here on our scriptural row. All the Texans sit on the same row. He sits in the middle. One reason we sit back there is because that's the row he picks. So we all sit next to him. And you'll see every day when the House is in session, the Texans, we're all together sitting around SAM JOHNSON. We kind of stick together for a lot of reasons.

I now yield to the gentleman from Texas, Dr. MICHAEL BURGESS.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, we are here tonight to honor Congressman SAM JOHNSON. It's also appropriate to take a moment and send our thoughts and prayers to Congressman JOHNSON's family during a difficult time that they're going through right now.

As we've heard tonight, Congressman JOHNSON is a decorated war hero. During his 29-year service in the United States Air Force, Congressman JOHNSON flew in 62 combat missions in the Korean War and 25 missions in the Vietnam War. He endured almost 7 years as a prisoner of war in Hanoi, with a majority spent in solitary confinement, after being captured in North Vietnam.

Congressman JOHNSON persevered through this dreadful experience, returned to the United States and was reunited with his wife and three children on February 12, 1973. This week marks the 40th anniversary of his release, and we celebrate his achievements and the sacrifice for his country. In fact, 10 years ago this week, I gave what was my first speech on the House floor honoring then SAM JOHNSON's 30th anniversary of freedom, and at that time his wife, Shirley, was with us in the gallery.

□ 1950

When SAM came home, he undertook a duty to continuously support and protect every man and woman who risks his life fighting for the United States of America. This was a motivation for his decision to run for office, and it is a true statement to the character and virtues that he gained from his service to this country.

In thinking about Shirley, every summer, she does a fashion show in Frisco, Texas. SAM is my neighbor to the east from the congressional district that I represent. Shirley does a fashion show, the proceeds of which go to provide scholarships for kids in the area—true dedication to community service. We are all so honored to have SAM and Shirley in our lives.

Thank you, Congressman JOHNSON. Thank you for being my friend and my mentor, for providing me expertise when I ran for the House and when I arrived at the House. You continue to provide mentorship to me today.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I now recognize the gentleman from Tyler, Texas, Judge GOHMERT.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank my friend, a former judge as well.

It is an honor to be here and to be part of this Special Order to honor our friend SAM JOHNSON.

SAM and Shirley are public servants in every sense of the word. There were the 29 years in the Air Force. The United States service was what he was. It's what he did. There were the 7 years in Hanoi Hilton—one of the worst prisons ever concocted in the imagination of sick minds—and he spent 42 months of that in solitary confinement. There are people running around the world saying that you can't put people in solitary confinement, but they were not around to help SAM JOHNSON during that horrible time in Hanoi. This is the 40th anniversary of his release, and America has been better for SAM JOHNSON's living and serving and for Shirley's being his partner even though, for 7 years, they were apart.

I know, on the first day I was sworn in, I was sitting right over here on the aisle, talking to another Republican, and SAM came down the aisle. His body still shows the torture and the broken bones that never healed properly and the bones that grew around nerves that they were never able to fix.

When he got even with me, I stood up and shook his hand and said, SAM, it is such an honor to serve with you in this body. SAM has always been a man of honesty and integrity, a man whose judgment I could trust.

He said, Well, it's an honor serving with you—which was a stretch—but then he said, But don't trust that fella next to you. I found out after that that SAM JOHNSON's advice was always good and always advice that could be well taken.

After some of the revelations in the Middle East of a U.S. prison camp, I said, SAM, did you hear about the torture of making people strip down and put panties on their heads?

And he said, Yeah.

I said, Was that ever a choice that you were given?

He said, If it had been, I'd be naked, wearing panties still today.

That was nothing compared to the hell that that man was put through in Hanoi.

Then I found out that in our U.S. prisons—it's open information—that we provide not only a Koran, which has never been touched by American hands, but also an arrow on the floor that points in the direction that the Islamic prisoner would want to pray, and we give him a prayer rug.

I asked SAM, When you were in Hanoi, did you have a prayer rug and a Bible, as that was part of your faith?

And he said, No. Actually, what we had was a tiny, little rod that was placed on the floor—our feet in shackles. We would be beaten on the back until we dropped, and my knees would hit that tiny rod.

It doesn't sound like much, but when you spend hours or days with your knees and all your weight on a tiny, little rod on the floor, it gets pretty unbearable. And that was some of the less torturous stuff this man went through on our behalf.

Part of his service to this country are his children and his grandchildren, and it is with great sadness that I know SAM and Shirley and this country lost Bob Johnson—Plano High School to Texas A&M. His children and grandchildren.

SAM, our hearts are with you. You have sacrificed more than anybody I know on behalf of this country, and it is an honor to serve with you.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Tyler, Texas.

I now recognize a gentleman from Texas, Mr. LAMAR SMITH.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. First of all, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for organizing this Special Order tonight.

Mr. Speaker, today's Special Order is to honor our friend, colleague and a true American patriot, Congressman

SAM JOHNSON, and his 40th anniversary of freedom.

Congressman JOHNSON has a long history of serving our country. He spent 29 years in the United States Air Force and flew 87 combat missions during the Korean and Vietnam wars. He was awarded two Silver Stars, the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Bronze Star with Valor, and has received many other recognitions. Today, we celebrate Operation Homecoming and observe the 40th anniversary of his release from a Vietnamese prisoner-of-war camp.

Congressman SAM JOHNSON was captured and held for 7 years in a POW camp in Vietnam. He spent 42 months in solitary confinement—an unfortunate record. Though tested both physically and mentally, almost beyond comprehension, his unwavering love of God and country remained steadfast. A firsthand account of Congressman JOHNSON's experience in the Vietnamese POW camp can be found in his riveting and inspiring book, ''Captive Warriors,'' which will cause you to weep.

His commitment to his country was matched only by his wife Shirley's commitment to him. Friends say she set a seat at the table every night while he was gone with the hope and expectation that he would come home.

After his release, Congressman JOHNSON started a homebuilding business from the ground up. Then he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives for 7 years, and he has now represented Texas' Third Congressional District since 1991.

It is a professional honor and a personal privilege to serve with Congressman SAM JOHNSON. Today, we thank him for his service to our country and to the American people.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize another aviator, although he wasn't in the Air Force—he was in the Navy, which still counts. He served our country as a naval aviator before coming to the House of Representatives, Mr. PETE OLSON of Sugar Land, Texas.

Mr. OLSON. I want to thank my friend and fellow Texan, Judge TED POE, for hosting this Special Order: celebrating the greatest Texan in Congress, Colonel SAM JOHNSON, on the 40th anniversary of his return home after 7 years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

We've heard the stories of SAM's lifetime of service to our Nation. They are the stuff of legends—the best of the best. SAM was shot down on his 25th mission over Vietnam, captured and imprisoned by the enemy. He was put in a special prison known as Alcatraz. His 2 years in Alcatraz were described by SAM as ''hell on Earth.''

Twenty years after SAM left Alcatraz, I began my training to become a naval aviator. Part of that training included prisoner-of-war school, also known as SERE school—survival, evasion, resistance, and escape. In SERE school, we were locked in a dark box. We were deprived of sleep and exposed to interrogation techniques depicted in the movie ''Zero Dark Thirty.'' The main lesson I learned in SERE school was because of SAM JOHNSON: that my duty as a POW was to resist and to resist and to resist and to resist and to resist—to my breaking point as a human being.

□ 2000

When I hit that point, my duty was to bend a little, give some incomplete and vague information, regroup, and start anew—to resist, to resist, to resist, to resist, and to resist.

Because of SAM JOHNSON's experience, every U.S. military pilot who follows in his footsteps, like me, knows in his heart if we're captured, we will never stop resisting our captors, and we will always come home with honor, like SAM did.

The heart of SAM JOHNSON, the SAM JOHNSON I know, can be summed up in the first sentence SAM reportedly said to his fellow POWs after he left solitary confinement: Lieutenant Colonel SAM JOHNSON, reporting for duty, sir.

I imagine that our POW in charge responded to SAM with a slow, crisp salute saying, Colonel JOHNSON, take charge, and carry out the plan of the day.

SAM has been taking charge and carrying out the plan of the day his whole life. I wasn't there to greet SAM when he came home 40 years ago, so I say it to my friend now: Welcome home, SAM. Welcome home.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Sugar Land, Texas, for his insightful words. You pointed out, Mr. OLSON, that he spent 4 years in a prisoner-of-war camp. During those 4 years, he didn't talk to another American for 4 years. He could tap on the wall to contact them in codes that they'd developed over the numerous years they'd all been in confinement. They tapped out the names of the other prisoners, the 374 other prisoners that had been in the Hanoi Hilton at one time. They all memorized the 11, the Alcatraz Gang, as they called themselves. They memorized those names because they all expected that they were going to escape and get back and be able to tell those families who had come into the camp. A remarkable story.

I now yield to the gentleman from Texas, Mr. ROGER WILLIAMS.

Mr. WILLIAMS. I'm honored to stand here today and say a few words about one of my personal heroes and friends, and one of America's greatest patriots, SAM JOHNSON. This month is cause for celebration as it marks 40 years since nearly 600 American POWs, including Congressman JOHNSON, stepped foot on American soil after enduring years of captivity during the Vietnam war.

Many of us couldn't endure for one day what SAM JOHNSON endured for 7 years, much less endure it with unbreakable strength, unending faith in God, and constant hope that this incredible man has.

His captors knew him as a die hard, one of the few POWs who refused to give in and cooperate with their anti-American propaganda. His fellow American prisoners knew him as a leader, one whose spirit could not be broken, whether he was in leg stocks or solitary confinement, for 4 years. And his family knew him as their hero, a man who loved serving his country and was willing to sacrifice his life in defense of freedom.

I'm honored to know him as a friend. Throughout his 29-year career in the Air Force, he earned many distinguished decorations, awards, and merits. But for those who have had the pleasure of sitting at the dinner table with SAM, you know those years were also filled with laughter and antics. After all, he did fly with the legendary Thunderbirds before the FAA existed.

Men like SAM JOHNSON are what have made our military great—and our country—the greatest force on Earth. He has built a remarkable legacy with his lifelong service to America, to the great State of Texas and, most importantly, to his family and loved ones.

Colonel JOHNSON, thank you for your service to our country and for your example to us all. And I'd like to remind people, America doesn't give because it's rich; America is rich because it gives. And it's given us SAM JOHNSON, and for that we're very grateful.

Luke 6:38 says:

> A good measure be given to you, pressed down, shaken together, put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.

SAM, you gave it all to us, and you deserve every great thing that happens to you. So may God bless you, and may God bless our troops.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman.

I now yield to the gentleman from Lubbock, Texas, Mr. RANDY NEUGEBAUER.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman. It is indeed an honor and a privilege for me to participate in this recognition of our colleague but, more importantly, my friend, SAM JOHNSON.

You know, when I got to Congress, you get to know people, and particularly because SAM was in the Texas delegation, and people started saying, they'd say you know SAM's story, and they would begin to tell me a few things about SAM JOHNSON. So some of the things that you're hearing tonight are things you would have never heard from SAM JOHNSON because SAM doesn't talk about what he does. He just goes about doing the right thing.

In fact, he's got a history of serving this country. When you think about SAM JOHNSON, you think about service. You know, a lot of people serve. SAM has served in our military. He served in our Texas House, and now in the United States Congress, but not everybody serves with equal sacrifice. And when you think about SAM JOHNSON's life, you think about sacrifice.

How I learned more about SAM was an interesting trip that I took with

then-Speaker of the House, Denny Hastert. We flew to Vietnam to be one of the first delegations to have a Speaker of the House be in Vietnam since the end of the Vietnam war. And so I decided on that trip that I would read SAM's book. So all of the way over there, I read SAM's book, and it was just by fate that I read the last page as we landed in Hanoi.

Tears streamed down from my eyes as I had been on this journey that SAM takes you through his book of sacrifice and pain, but also a man that had faith. And it was his faith that he relied on on a daily basis, and his commitment to his country and his commitment to those who were with him, and the fortitude that he showed of taking those sometimes daily beatings, and this quietness of solitude. As we landed there, I was thinking about SAM and his spending 7 years in those conditions and then coming back home.

But as you read that book, what you also know is another hero, and SAM would be quick to point out, and that was his wife, Shirley, who never gave up hope, never gave up on SAM because she knew the SAM JOHNSON that we've been talking about tonight. She knew that SAM wouldn't go down easy.

SAM, we're so proud of you and so glad to serve with you. One of the memorable points of that trip is just a few months before that, SAM himself had traveled back to Hanoi, the first time since he had left, and he had signed the guest book just a few pages over:

> Sam Johnson back again, where I spent 7 years of my life.

It was an honor for me to sign just a few pages over. For a great American hero but, more importantly, for a great friend: God bless you, SAM JOHNSON, and God bless the United States of America.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman.

I would ask the Speaker how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADEL). The gentleman has 17 minutes remaining.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the Speaker.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas, Mr. BLAKE FARENTHOLD.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Thank you, Congressman POE.

I'm honored today to stand up here to honor the bravery and commitment that Congressman SAM JOHNSON has shown his country. SAM lived through an experience that would bring even the toughest soldier to his knees. He was in the Air Force for 29 years and was a prisoner of war for 7 after his F4 plane was gunned down in North Vietnam.

Now today, 40 years after he was released from captivity, we celebrate his freedom. He was beaten and tortured and kept in a small cell; yet he refused to give up or disclose any information to the enemy. The sacrifice and peril that SAM went through is on the heart of every young man or woman who commits himself to serve the Armed Forces. SAM and his family just suffered a tragic personal loss. I have no notes here; you can read about SAM and his accomplishments and his heroics on the Internet. Or better yet, buy the book.

I want to talk for a minute about my experience in the slightly over 2 years that I have been in the House serving with SAM.

There is nobody that has the respect of this Congress the way SAM JOHNSON does.

□ 2010

I don't know a single person on either side of the aisle that doesn't appreciate SAM's service and sacrifice and hold him in the highest esteem. And that's saying something, when we're serving in a body that's constantly bickering, that has an 8 percent approval rating. But if all of us who serve were half the man that SAM JOHNSON is, we would have a 100 percent approval rating here in Congress.

I'm honored to serve with SAM. I thank him for his service, though that seems just too little for what he has done and given up for this country. But I'm proud to call him a friend.

God bless you, SAM. God bless Texas, and God bless the U.S.A.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, Mr. STEVE STOCKMAN.

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, when I got here 18 years ago, when I first got here I was wet under the ears, and I started looking at different people's voting patterns. And I didn't know, you know, which way to go or whatever. All I know is SAM in private is the way he is publicly. And privately, SAM, you're a hardcore American patriot. And I started to learn a lot from you.

But reading your history and what you did, I just can't imagine being in that confinement for that period of time. It seems like it would be beyond what anybody could take. Yet, time and time again, you stood up, and there was only 11 of you that resisted the torture and resisted the torture of the Vietnamese, which broke every Geneva Convention protocol.

And SAM, in this area in which you've served our Nation, I understand—I think it was five rows across and five rows down. So A A would be tap, tap, B would be tap, tap, tap—in other words, they would do the alphabet five five that way, and they would tap out at night. And that's all the communication they had.

And serving with SAM, and watching SAM go through his service and his commitment to the American people, I don't know if we actually read all of his medals, but he has two Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Bronze Star with Combat Valor, two Purple Hearts, four Air Medals, three Air Force Outstanding Units, and he was also awarded the Prisoner of War Medal.

That's just one individual having all those medals, and he's served our Nation and our country and continues to serve our Nation and our country.

I'm honored to serve with SAM. And at this time, when he's lost his son, you're in our prayers. God bless you.

And thank you for offering the opportunity to say a little bit on behalf of SAM.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman.

I now yield to Mr. BILL FLORES from Texas.

Mr. FLORES. I thank the gentleman from Texas for organizing this very special evening.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest admiration and respect for Congressman SAM JOHNSON. Tonight, America has heard many accolades for and compliments dedicated to SAM JOHNSON, and I'm not going to repeat those in my comments.

Rather, I want to say that our country needs more SAM JOHNSONs during these difficult times. We need more persons like SAM to bravely move and serve in our country's military today. We need more persons like SAM to serve as statesmen.

We need more people like SAM who put principle ahead of politics or personal gain. We need more persons like SAM to be knightly gentlemen in an unstable society. We need more persons like SAM who are devoted husbands and loving fathers.

Mr. Speaker, America needs more heroes like SAM JOHNSON. I pray that America continues to produce men and women of strength and perseverance and character like SAM JOHNSON.

God bless SAM and his wife, Shirley, and his family, in particular. We remember their son, Bob Johnson, this evening.

I'm honored and humbled, and I have to say deeply humbled, to serve with my good friend from Texas, Congressman SAM JOHNSON.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, SAM JOHNSON is a remarkable individual. The nickname that the Vietnamese gave him of Diehard, he's still that way. He's hardcore. He is opinionated, and he can back up everything he says. But that's a good thing. He does represent the best that we have in this country.

His military background: We have, in the House of Representatives, Members of Congress, both sides, that have served in our military, all branches, in the Reserves, the National Guard, they served in World War II, they served in Korea and Vietnam, like SAM JOHNSON. They've served in both Iraqi wars, the Afghanistan war, and they're still serving today.

We have Members who have lost their limbs for this country while on active duty serving this country. And SAM JOHNSON is among that elite that have represented America, the flag, and our country when our country needed our military.

He's married, three kids—you now know that one of them died recently—and he has 10 grandkids.

He served in the war, the second war, not the Korean War, but the second one, the Vietnamese War, came back home. Americans didn't treat our war veterans from Vietnam very well. They were treated real bad, in fact. Some of our American troops, when they came back home from serving in Vietnam, they wouldn't wear the uniform because Americans would ridicule them for what the country asked them to do.

America has learned since Vietnam. We treat our warriors a lot better now. We treat them like they ought to be treated when they come back home from Iraq, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world.

Our warriors from Vietnam didn't get the appropriate welcome back, as already mentioned. Tonight, we welcome back one of them. We welcome back Colonel SAM JOHNSON, United States Air Force, reporting for duty.

After spending 7 years in a prisoner-of-war-camp, 4 years in solitary confinement, as I pointed out, 9 feet by 3 feet for 4 years, 24 hours a day, leg irons at night, taken out in the daytime and beat. Never broke. Diehard. Never gave in. He was never broken.

Remarkable individuals, these Americans who serve and wear the uniform. It's a rare breed, but it's the American breed, and that's what makes us free, those people, those remarkable people who wear the uniform and serve, and serve overseas, and serve in prisoner-of-war camps, if necessary.

So we thank SAM JOHNSON. We thank all who have served and are serving today for their service to our great country. But especially tonight, we welcome home SAM JOHNSON of the United States Air Force. And that's just the way it is.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 40th anniversary of "Operation Homecoming," which made possible the release of hundreds of American heroes held captive in North Vietnam.

One of those courageous POWs is my friend and our distinguished colleague, Congressman SAM JOHNSON of Texas, who didn't see his family for seven years as a prisoner of the North Vietnamese. Forced to endure severe torture, solitary confinement, malnutrition, and attempts by their captors to force confessions for propaganda, SAM JOHNSON and countless other American POWs conducted themselves with uncommon courage and heroic strength of character.

In SAM's book, "Captive Warriors," he writes about a phrase found scribbled onto the walls of his cell: "Freedom has a taste to those who fight and almost die that the protected will never know." Because of men like SAM, I know that my nine-year-old son and my ten-year-old daughter sleep in a freer and a safer America tonight.

President Calvin Collidge once said, "The nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten." I, for one, am committed to ensuring this nation never forgets the sacrifice Congressman SAM JOHNSON and the countless American POWs who have endured such extreme hardship—and in many cases paid with their lives—to protect the freedom we cherish.

Mr. Speaker, as a Texan and as an American, I am proud to salute patriot SAM JOHNSON.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Congressman SAM JOHNSON'S 40th anniversary of freedom. On February 12, 1973, Congressman JOHNSON and 590 other American POWs were released from captivity in Vietnam. With 29 years in the United States Air Force, nearly seven of those spent imprisoned, and 22 years of service in Congress, Congressman JOHNSON has been selflessly dedicated to the betterment our nation for more than 50 years. As we celebrate his 40 years of freedom today, we must also recognize that his half century of dedicated service has helped to preserve the freedom and prosperity of all Americans. It is a great privilege to represent Texas alongside such an inspiring patriot. I am proud to call SAM JOHNSON a true friend and a personal hero.

CBC HOUR: VOTING RIGHTS ACT, SECTION 5

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HORSFORD. The Congressional Black Caucus is proud to anchor this hour, and I'm pleased to be here with our chair, the Honorable MARCIA FUDGE, from the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, and to yield her such time as she may consume.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you so very much. And thank you, as well as Mr. JEFFRIES, for anchoring these CBC hours. It is wonderful to have new Members come to the House floor and do the work that we've been doing for so long. I am so proud of them and appreciative of the work they do, so thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send a clear message to those who would seek to undermine our constitutional right to vote: You will not win. The race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong. This is not the first time section 5 of the Voting Rights Act has been challenged, and there is a very good chance that it will not be the last.

□ 2020

The Congressional Black Caucus and many others, even a number of Members from the other side of the aisle, have continually reauthorized and worked to protect section 5. In a matter of days, the Supreme Court will review the constitutionality of section 5. If the Supreme Court does not ultimately decide to protect the uninhibited right to vote for all voters, no matter their race, the Court will not and must not have the last word on this matter.

The 15th Amendment provides that the right of citizens to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of race, color, or previous servitude. Despite the passage of the 15th Amendment and ratification by the States, Congress has been forced to act in order to protect African American voters from violence and intimidation.

Prior to the Voting Rights Act, the courts' attempts to protect voters proved inadequate. In 1965, at the height of the civil rights movement, when vicious dogs and poll taxes were used to block the ballot, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act. This law was necessary then, and the last two Federal elections have shown, without a shadow of a doubt, that section 5 remains essential today.

The right to vote is among the most important rights we enjoy as Americans. Because of its importance, because of the power behind the vote, it is the one right most often compromised; and for the same reasons, it is a right that we must do everything in our power to protect.

Martin Luther King, Jr., once said:

> So long as I do not firmly and irrevocably possess the right to vote, I do not possess myself.

As the Supreme Court prepares to hear arguments in Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder, we must remember the words of Dr. King and the importance of section 5.

Since 1982, approximately 2,400 discriminatory voting changes have been successfully blocked by the section 5 preclearance process. After the 2010 midterm elections, 8 of 11 States that were a part of the former confederacy passed new voting restrictions. These laws require government-issued photo ID to cast a ballot, proof of citizenship to register to vote, many cut back on early voting, and several disenfranchise ex-offenders. These laws are specifically designed to make it more difficult for minorities and other traditionally marginalized eligible voters to participate in the political process.

The recent assault on voters was not restricted to the States with a history of voting discrimination. In my home State of Ohio, and in many other States and jurisdictions not covered by section 5, there were attempts to pass restrictive laws. Leading up to the 2012 election, 22 laws and 2 executive actions restricting voting rights were passed in 17 States, and 176 restrictive bills were filed in 41 States.

The Federal Government should be doubling down on the Voting Rights Act by expanding and strengthening Federal protections. The long lines in Florida and the voting scams in Arizona were no coincidence. Section 5 is as necessary today is it was on the date of its inception in 1965 and should include more States and jurisdictions.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Chairwoman FUDGE. We look forward to your leadership on this issue and other issues under your steady hand of the Congressional Black Caucus in the 113th Congress.

I now yield to the distinguished Member from North Carolina, Representative BUTTERFIELD.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and particularly thank the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus for her leadership in convening this special hour tonight.

As many of our colleagues know, before being elected to Congress 8 years ago, I was a trial judge and an appellate judge in my home State of North Carolina. But what many of you may not know is that, for some 6 years before becoming a judge, I spent considerable time litigating cases under the Voting Rights Act and presenting comments to the Department of Justice in section 5 cases.

Mr. Speaker, so many people do not understand section 5. This preclearance provision does not apply in every jurisdiction in America. It only applies to selected counties where there was evidence of discriminatory voting practices when the Voting Rights Act was first enacted in 1965. These jurisdictions are required to submit to the Department of Justice any changes in election law or procedure for determination of whether the change could have a negative impact on the voting strength of minority groups. If the jurisdiction fails in their proof, the change is not allowed. And I will say for the RECORD today that, in the early days of section 5, many jurisdictions ignored the requirement.

It has been proven, Mr. Speaker, time and time again in courtrooms across America that racially polarized voting has existed at the ballot box since the 15th Amendment was ratified—and it exists today. My congressional district in North Carolina, though it is improving, continues to have voting based on the race of the candidate. Many white voters choose not to vote for a candidate who is clearly the preferred candidate of the African American community. When this happens, the black community is handicapped. We call it vote dilution. And so section 5's preclearance provision simply is a backstop against jurisdictions devising election schemes that will make it more difficult for the African American community to elect a candidate of its choice, taking into consideration the existence of racially polarized voting.

Mr. Speaker, I can cite dozens of instances in North Carolina where discriminatory changes were proposed to election systems and the Department of Justice stepped forward and denied the change. Had it not been for section 5, black electoral success in my congressional district would be considerably less. Many of the cities and counties in my district now have single-member election districts that were ordered by the courts. The courts have required that some of these districts had to be majority African American, which now enable the African American community to elect candidates of their choice. Elimination of section 5 could enable mischievous jurisdictions to eliminate this in favor of at-large elections, where concentrations of black voters would be submerged into at-large systems.

Mr. Speaker, the time has not come when we should eliminate the protection of section 5. The evidence continues to suggest racially polarized voting that discriminates against the African American community. If this protection is struck down, some governing boards at the State and the local level will seize the opportunity to promulgate election rules that disadvantage minority voters, and the only remedy then will be to file an expensive Federal lawsuit and prove intentional discrimination in the district court. And so, Mr. Speaker, I urge the Supreme Court to carefully look at the legislative history that we have provided and decide to maintain the protection of section 5.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Nevada for his friendship and his leadership and for working to make this hour happen tonight.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Mr. BUTTERFIELD. We, again, appreciate your leadership as the vice chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus and look forward to working under your leadership, as well as Chairwoman FUDGE.

At this time I now yield to my colleague and friend, the distinguished Member from New Jersey, Representative PAYNE.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friends and colleagues, Congressman HORSFORD of Nevada and Congressman JEFFRIES of New York, for anchoring tonight's CBC Special Order on the Voting Rights Act.

Fair and equal access to the ballot box is an important topic and one of these that has not been fully resolved. One hundred-fifty years ago, President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, but it took another 100 years to pass the Civil Rights Act, and eventually the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Since then, our country has made progress in achieving justice and equality, but it is no secret this process has been painfully slow and noticeably deficient.

The Supreme Court will hear the case this week of Shelby v. Holder, which, if ruled in the favor of Shelby County, Alabama, would take us back 50 years and undo protections granted in the Voting Rights Act.

□ 2030

Some argue that we no longer need some of these protections provided in the Voting Rights Act. Some argue that we have achieved equality and justice for all. Some argue that section 5 is outdated because racism has been eviscerated. It is true we've come a long way and times have changed, but the unfortunate fact is that we have not changed enough.

Let's look at the facts. This past November, people across this Nation had to wait in line to vote for hours in places such as Miami, Tampa, Richmond, Charlotte, and Raleigh. Sometimes people waited 6, 7, or 8 hours to exercise their fundamental right to vote.

In the President's State of the Union Address, President Obama had a guest, a woman by the name of Desiline Victor, who waited 6 hours in Florida to vote. She was 102 years old. This is simply unacceptable. And unfortunately, long voting lines have become all too commonplace, particularly in urban and minority-rich areas.

So the big question I get asked from my constituents is: Why wouldn't we want everyone who is eligible to have the opportunity to vote? The answer is simple: When more Americans vote, they tend to vote for Democrats.

Regardless of someone's political persuasions, every eligible American should have the fair opportunity to cast their ballot—whether they be white, black, Asian, Latino, man, woman, gay, straight, Protestant, Catholic, atheist, or agnostic—because of the simple fact that we are all Americans and voting is a fundamental right in this country. This is about preserving democracy, and eliminating section 5 would undermine that right upon which this country was founded.

This past year, 37 State legislatures shamelessly passed laws that oftentimes targeted minorities and attempted to limit their access to the ballot. Strict photo ID laws, limitations on early voting, and stringent voter registration laws all had one purpose: It wasn't about reducing fraud; it was about preventing certain populations from voting.

It is astonishing—and it could not be more evident—that racism and the effort to suppress the right to vote is alive and well in this Nation. Luckily, section 5 rightly ensured that many of these laws never passed preclearance. So it cannot be plainer that now is the time to strengthen, not weaken, section 5, as it still serves as a very real and critical purpose in preserving our democracy and the right to vote for millions.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Representative PAYNE, Jr. We appreciate your remarks.

I now yield to the distinguished Member from Maryland, Representative CUMMINGS, who is the ranking member on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, the committee that has jurisdiction on voting reform issues.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I also take this moment to thank the Congressional Black Caucus for making this happen. And I thank Representatives HORSFORD and JEFFRIES

for leading this. It is quite encouraging—and I know that our chairman, MARCIA FUDGE, agrees with me—when we see our new Members come to the forefront and lead. That's why our constituents sent us here. I just want you to know that we are very, very, very proud of you, as we are of our other new Member, Mr. PAYNE, who just spoke. We are certainly glad that you are here and leading.

We all know our Nation's disgraceful history in this area of voting rights. I've often said that if we did not have the Voting Rights Act, these past few years have taught us that we would have to invent it.

For decades and decades, racist and exclusionary voting practices kept minorities from accessing the ballot box. I'm reminded of my great-great-grandfather, Mr. Scipio Rhame. In the South Carolina of 1868, he overcame tremendous hardships and life-threatening dangers just to register to vote, only a few years after he had come out of slavery. Sadly, this country has witnessed very slow progress toward equality in voting. The reality is that in the year 2013, we are still fighting for the right to vote for all Americans.

In election after election, discriminatory voting laws and exclusionary practices still surface. This past election cycle, we saw a new wave of efforts to suppress the vote. We saw racially motivated efforts to cut back on early voting. We saw physical destruction of voter registration forms. Across the country, we saw eligible voters prevented from casting their ballots because of long lines, inaccurate voter records, and poorly trained poll workers.

As the ranking member on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I launched an investigation last year into the actions of True the Vote, a Tea Party organization that claims to promote ''voter integrity'' efforts. In fact, True the Vote sought to make it harder for Americans to vote. They challenged the registration of thousands of legitimate voters across the country before Election Day, and they deployed volunteers across the country to challenge access to the polls for legitimate voters.

Efforts by groups like True the Vote disproportionately affect minority communities, and they are just one small example of the practices that still seek to suppress the vote in our country.

The Voting Rights Act is often cited as the most effective civil rights law in our history. Section 5 has been one of the most powerful tools in the act because it combats discriminatory attempts to marginalize voters before they can take root. When President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act in 1965, he said this:

> There were those who said smaller and more gradual measures should be tried. But they had been tried. For years and years they had been tried, and tried, and tried, and they had failed, and failed, and failed. And the time for failure is gone.

So, in closing, I hope the Supreme Court Justices remember these words as they consider this most recent challenge to section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

Today, in the year 2013, section 5 remains as critical as ever to protecting the right to vote in the United States of America.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Representative CUMMINGS. I know under your leadership, as the ranking member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the issue of voting rights will continue to be a top priority in this Congress.

Mr. CUMMINGS. You're absolutely right. Thank you.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. President, I now—excuse me, Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the distinguished Member from Maryland, our whip, Mr. HOYER.

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, STEVE and I were both in the senate, and you have a president in the senate. That's why he was referring to you as Mr. President. I understand that, STEVE.

I am pleased to join MARCIA FUDGE, the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, and my good friend, STEVE HORSFORD, the gentleman from Nevada. And I notice that DON PAYNE is here. His father was a very close friend of mine, active some 45 years ago. So it's good to see you here, DON, and HAKEEM JEFFRIES, two of our really great new Members. I'm pleased to join you.

□ 2040

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Congressional Black Caucus for organizing this Special Order hour. America's greatest strength—and its greatest gift to the world—is our democratic system of government based on an equal voice for every citizen. It is what grants legitimacy to our laws and earns us respect from those in other parts of the world who yearn for the freedoms we enjoy.

For most of our history, our democracy was deeply flawed: excluding women, African Americans, Native Americans and many others. But part of what makes America great is that we are constantly working to perfect our democracy by correcting such flaws. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was a central part of that effort—and an incredibly successful one. Before that legislation was enacted, millions of African Americans were systematically prevented from registering to vote or casting their ballots across much of the South. And I would venture to say that there were other parts of America where they were dissuaded from voting, as well. Poll taxes, ''grandfather clauses,'' literacy tests and other nefarious devices were employed to keep Americans from exercising their most fundamental civil right.

Perhaps the greatest impetus for enacting the Voting Rights Act was the horrific violence and hatred of ''Bloody Sunday,'' when peaceful civil rights marchers were beaten and turned back at the Edmund Pettus Bridge outside Selma, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, this weekend, a number of us here will be traveling to Selma, led by the same man who helped organize those 1965 marches, our friend and colleague, Representative JOHN LEWIS, an extraordinary historic figure, an extraordinary gentle man, but a giant of courage and principle. We are going as part of an annual pilgrimage to remember that day, ''Bloody Sunday,'' March 7, 1965, and the cause for which those brave Americans, black and white, risked their lives: political equality and the perfection of our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I've been privileged to walk with JOHN LEWIS across that bridge and others, including at least two Presidents, for 10 out of the 13 times that JOHN LEWIS has reenacted that walk. Walking in their footsteps is one way to honor that cause. But it is far from the best way. The best way to do it is to carry on their work—to defend and promote the protections included in the Voting Rights Act that they fought so hard to bring about.

On Wednesday, Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court will hear arguments in Shelby County v. Holder, which challenges the constitutionality of one of the Voting Rights Act's central provisions, and that is pre-clearance, making sure that the Justice Department says, yes, this is fair; yes, this will not exclude; yes, this is a policy that will be consistent with our democracy. Preclearance, established by section 5 of the act, mandates that jurisdictions with a long history of voter suppression and civil rights violations must submit to the Justice Department for approval any plans to change their election practices or district boundaries before doing so. Section 5 has been instrumental in ending discrimination and protecting eligible voters at the polls. Its constitutionality is rooted in article I and has been working as intended for nearly half a century.

At a time when we are hearing about problems voters faced all over the country in last November's election—with long lines, registration errors, voting machines that malfunctioned and deceptive practices—we ought to be working together to make the Voting Rights Act stronger, not weaker.

I will continue, along with my colleagues, to stand up for the Voting Rights Act on this floor and in every forum of debate. Because those who marched at Selma or braved the dangers of the freedom rides did not do so in vain. Their legacy is our responsibility. The more perfect democracy they helped forge is ours to safeguard, not only for our sake, but for the sake of those who will inherit our democracy in generations to come.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to join my colleagues in the Congressional

Black Caucus in strong support of section 5 of the Voting Rights Act—and the rest of it as well—as it faces meritless challenges this week that I am confident will be surmounted.

And, again, in closing my part of this Special Order, I want to congratulate STEVE HORSFORD, Congressman HORSFORD, from Nevada. He's new to this body, but he's not new to legislative representation. He understands the legislative process very, very well; and it is appropriate that in one of his first Special Orders on this floor that it's on behalf of every American—not just black Americans, not just Hispanic Americans and not just disabled Americans—every American. Because if one American's right to vote is compromised, there will be a risk to all Americans that their vote will be compromised. And I thank my friend, Congressman HORSFORD.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Representative HOYER. As our whip, you have provided a strong and articulate voice on these and other issues, and we look forward to continuing to work with you as we move our country forward and protect the most fundamental of all rights—the right to vote.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I now yield to my co-anchor, my colleague as a freshman member in this 113th Congress. I am pleased to be working with him as one of the co-anchors for the Congressional Black Caucus and bringing these important issues to all of our constituents throughout this great country, the distinguished Member from New York, Representative HAKEEM JEFFRIES.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Let me first just thank the distinguished gentleman from the Silver State, my good friend and colleague, Representative STEVEN HORSFORD, for anchoring this CBC Special Order. I also, of course, want to thank Chairwoman MARCIA FUDGE for the tremendous leadership that she has continued to provide and, of course, to our whip, STENY HOYER, for his eloquence and his leadership on this and many other issues on behalf of this great country of ours.

It is my honor and my privilege to co-anchor this CBC Special Order, this ''hour of power,'' so to speak, where members of the Congressional Black Caucus have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people today on an issue of great importance as it relates to the integrity of our democracy. There's no more fundamental issue to preserving the integrity of the great democracy that we have here in America than the right to vote. The right to vote is something that should be cherished, something that should be protected, something that should be respected. But the right to vote has not always been treated in this fashion in this Republic of ours. During the founding of this country, we know, of course, that African Americans were largely excluded from being able to participate in our democracy as a result of the conditions of their enslavement.

In 1869, this Congress came together and sent to the States for ratification the 15th Amendment to the United States Constitution, an amendment that was designed to remedy the situation related to the failure to meaningfully include African Americans in our democracy. It was designed to provide constitutional protection to limit the ability of States to disenfranchise individuals on the basis of race, color, or prior conditions of servitude.

Yet we understand that for about 100 years subsequent to the passage and ratification of the 15th Amendment to the United States Constitution, it was largely evaded in many parts of America as a result of legislative schemes that were devised to prohibit or limit the ability of African Americans and other communities of color to participate in our democracy. These legislative schemes took many forms. Some have already called their names—poll taxes, ''grandfather clauses'' and literacy tests—legislative schemes devised to limit the ability of African Americans and others to participate in this glorious democracy of ours. A large part of it took place in the Deep South, but there were instances of this all over America.

□ 2050

Mr. Speaker, that is why the Congress came back in the midst of the turbulent era of the 1960s and passed the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which included a section 5 preclearance provision that was designed to require those covered jurisdictions, or jurisdictions of all or parts of 16 States, to get approval from either the Department of Justice or a three-judge Federal Court panel here in Washington, D.C., whenever any of these jurisdictions sought to change a law with respect to voting.

The rationale for this section 5 preclearance requirement was because, in these covered jurisdictions, there was a history of discrimination as it related to the franchise, deliberate schemes designed to limit the ability of American citizens to participate in our democracy; and as a result of this history, the section 5 preclearance requirement was put into place. And it has worked. Over close to five decades that it has been in effect, it is perhaps the most successful piece of civil rights legislation that this Congress has passed.

Now, as a result of its success, there are some who have contended that it is no longer a relevant provision of law, and that when the Congress came together in bipartisan fashion in 2006 to reauthorize this provision, that this body, the House of Representatives and the Senate, which passed the reauthorization 98 to 0, Democrats and Republicans, the contention is that this body exceeded its constitutional authority because section 5 allegedly, according to the defenders of disenfranchisement, is no longer relevant.

Now, in the aftermath of Barack Obama's historic election in 2008, there was a Supreme Court case involving Austin, Texas, I believe, in 2009 that was heard just a few months after his inauguration. And part of the argument that was made in that Supreme Court case by those who sought to invalidate section 5's preclearance requirement was that, as a result of this historic election of Barack Obama, race seems no longer to be an issue in America, and they pointed to the elevation of Barack Obama to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Now, of course, that was an extremely important moment in the history of our Republic. It was a substantial step forward. But the reality is that the election of Barack Obama has also served to illustrate that in America there's still some issues of race that we've got to confront.

It's interesting, because if you look at the election of Presidents since the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, it's unprecedented in the aftermath of President Obama's election to have seen the level of voter suppression laws and efforts that we were forced to confront in this country. These efforts presumably are based on the thin claim that those who are advancing these laws are trying to guard against fraud. No evidence of fraud, but those who are advancing these voter suppression laws are attempting to guard against fraud.

When you look at the record, what's fascinating is that when Richard Nixon was elected in 1968, there was no explosion of concern for alleged fraud. He was reelected in 1972, no explosion of concern for alleged fraud. And then Jimmy Carter is elected in 1976, no explosion of concern for alleged fraud. And then Ronald Reagan is elected in 1980 and reelected in 1984, no explosion of concern for alleged fraud. George H.W. Bush elected in 1988, no explosion of concern for alleged fraud. Bill Clinton elected in 1992, reelected in 1996 and no explosion of concern for alleged fraud. George W. Bush elected, some would argue under questionable circumstances given the dynamics in the great State of Florida, but again, no explosion of concern related for alleged fraud. The same was true in 2004, notwithstanding some concerns in the great State of Ohio, no explosion of concern for alleged fraud. Yet Barack Obama is elected in 2008, and all of a sudden in the aftermath of this historic election there's an outbreak of concern, a pandemic of anxiety as it relates to the fraud that allegedly is taking place in America.

And so, as this chart illustrates—it is a wonderful chart that was prepared by the Brennan Center for Justice in my home State of New York, connected to my alma mater, New York University. It illustrates that since 2001, 41 States introduced 180 restrictive laws. Those States are illustrated by the red on the map. Parenthetically, a curious choice of colors, but those States are illustrated by the red on the map. Forty-one States introduced 180 restrictive laws.

And then you have 34 States introduced photo identification requirements; 17 States introduced proof of citizenship requirements; 16 States introduced bills to limit registration; and nine States introduced bills to limit or reduce early voting periods—unprecedented in the history of our democracy.

I just went through the election of several Presidents who were inaugurated post the 1965 Voting Rights Act, but, for some reason, the American people are smart enough to draw cause and effect when this President was elected. We had an outbreak of concern related to alleged fraud.

Now, thankfully, the Voting Rights Act in section 5 was in place to do something about it. I just talked about the fact that there were 41 States that introduced some form of voter restrictions.

On this map, we see that as of October in 2012 there were 25 laws and two executive actions that were passed in a total of 19 States. A large amount of this activity, as you can see on this map, Mr. Speaker, took place in the Deep South and in Texas, States that are largely covered by the section 5 preclearance requirements.

□ 2100

Let me just pause parenthetically and note that what's also interesting is that there were two States, Iowa and Florida, that in the past had executed through executive order reforms designed to allow those who as a result of the criminal justice system had had their ability to vote taken away from them restored through a process that had been put in place; but in the aftermath of the election of President Obama, what we saw is that in Iowa and in Florida—those two States—through executive order, they repealed those positive steps forward to make it almost impossible for those who had brushes with the law to ever be able to reengage in the ability to participate in American democracy.

These were laws that were passed. Yet, because of the section 5 preclearance requirement, not all of these laws actually were able to take effect. That's an important point as it relates to the continuing relevance of section 5's preclearance requirement. As of October 2012, approximately 12 courts either halted or blunted—they pushed back—some of those laws that States had attempted to enact.

Perhaps the most relevant example of why section 5 continues to be relevant is due to what took place in the Lone Star State, the great State of Texas, when the legislature passed what would have been the most restrictive voter identification law in the country. It would have prohibited potential voters from presenting student college identifications; they were deemed in this law as invalid. It would have prevented voters from presenting State government identification; IDs that were actually issued by the State of Texas would not have been valid under this law.

I find it interesting, particularly in light of the current debate that we're having related to how we deal with gun violence in America, that one of the forms of ID that actually would have been accepted was a license that allowed an individual to carry a concealed handgun permit. This was too much to accept for the Justice Department and for those who in good conscience seek to defend our democracy, and because Texas is a covered jurisdiction, it had to be presented for preclearance by the Department of Justice or a three-judge panel, and it was rejected. So this law, though passed, never took effect. The same thing happened in Alabama. The same thing happened in South Carolina. There is a law that was passed by the State of Florida that is under consideration. So, as a result, even though many objectively believed it was designed to suppress the vote, it did not take effect in advance of the 2012 election because it was under review by the Department of Justice and their preclearance requirement.

Mr. Speaker, in America, certainly we have come a long way, but we still have a long, long way to go. Jim Crow may be dead, but he has still got some nieces and nephews who are alive and well; and until every single descendant of Mr. Jim Crow's is dead and buried, we in the Congressional Black Caucus believe that the section 5 preclearance requirement of the Voting Rights Act remains as relevant today as it was when it was passed in 1965.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Representative JEFFRIES.

Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 13 minutes remaining.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, as the Congressional Black Caucus has discussed this evening, voting rights are an issue that all Americans are entitled to, and we should be helping more voters to participate in our democracy, not creating laws that prevent or discourage anyone from voting.

As my colleague just explained, the coanchor from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), we have made tremendous progress in recent history in securing the right to vote for many minority communities. A fully free and democratic society is always a work in progress, and with each election we are reminded that we cannot rest. We must always come to the defense of voting rights, and we cannot be caught off guard or pretend that because time has passed that we do not need to continue to fight to safeguard our rights. Now, no successful social justice movement has secured freedom absent vigilance, and that's why we are here tonight—to defend a pillar of justice and democracy.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was approved by Congress to protect fundamental voting rights and to protect minority groups from disenfranchisement. After a series of violent attacks on civil rights leaders who were registering African Americans to vote, former President Lyndon B. Johnson sent draft legislation to Congress to protect voting rights, and it was signed into law soon thereafter.

Since then, the Voting Rights Act has been one of the Nation's most effective civil rights laws and tools to combat discrimination and voting. Over time, the tactics used to stop people from voting have become more sophisticated. Unfair voter ID laws, barriers to voter registration, and narrowed early voting opportunities were all used in an attempt to suppress the vote in 2012. Overall, 2,400 changes in voting laws were stopped because of section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, as my colleague Mr. JEFFRIES just outlined.

In January, NAACP President Benjamin Jealous said:

The Nation has been facing some of the ''greatest attacks on voting rights since segregation'' and that the potential to repeal section 5 is the biggest threat yet.

Whether it's attempts to restrict early voting in Ohio or in Florida or whether it's throwing up billboards in minority communities that read ''voter fraud is a felony,'' we know that our work is not done. Intimidation is still a tactic employed by some seeking to scare voters from the polls. Until that threat is extinct, section 5 of the Voting Rights Act still has a very important role to play in making full democratic enfranchisement a reality in our society. We secured the integrity of our electorate in 2012, and it's in part because of the Voting Rights Act.

This is not a partisan issue. There is bipartisan consensus on that point. In 2006, the Voting Rights Act was reauthorized with overwhelming support from both sides of the aisle. In fact, this body, the House of Representatives, has voted four times—with strong bipartisan support every time—to reauthorize section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

□ 2110

Every reauthorization has been signed into law by a Republican President. The most recent reauthorization vote was 390–33 in the House and 98–0 in the Senate.

As part of the last reauthorization, Congress released over 15,000 pages of committee reports that demonstrated large-scale evidence of voting discrimination. Not only did these findings lead to a bipartisan vote to reauthorize the legislation, but Congress also cited the invaluable role of section 5 in thwarting racial injustice. According to the committee report, without the continuation of the Voting Rights Act's protections, the evidence is clear that ''racial and language minority citizens will be deprived of the opportunity to exercise their right to vote, or will have their votes diluted.''

In other words, Mr. Speaker, the Voting Rights Act is important for many different communities.

The writing is on the wall. Our work is not done. Section 5 must be upheld. And because of that, we stand in strong support of the Voting Rights Act here tonight.

I'd like to now bring my colleague, Mr. JEFFRIES, up so we can highlight some of the provisions of the Voting Rights Act, both from a historical perspective but most importantly how it still applies today.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Thank you, Mr. HORSFORD.

I think you hit on a very important point that should be reemphasized in the context of this debate. Every single reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act section 5 was signed into law by a Republican President. And so in 1970, the reauthorization was signed into law by President Richard Nixon. In 1975, it was President Gerald Ford. In 1982, it was Ronald Reagan. And in 2006, it was George Bush.

It was the current House majority, held in different form, but when Republicans were in charge of the Chamber, they allowed the reauthorization to move forward through the Judiciary Committee on a bipartisan basis. Now this may seem strange in the current poisonous environment of Washington that we exist in right now, but there was significant cooperation, tremendous leadership shown by the then-chairperson and the ranking member, JOHN CONYERS. It passed in the House of Representatives 390–33.

It's also interesting to note historically that prior to this year, every time section 5 and the Voting Rights Act has been used to address alleged concerns with redistricting, which traditionally takes place 2 years after the completion of the census, when it was used by the Justice Department to block or modify redistricting reforms or changes prior to the Obama administration, on every other occasion since the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965 it was a Republican Justice Department charged with the responsibility of addressing concerns with redistricting and the problem of racial gerrymandering. It was the Nixon Justice Department in 1972. It was the Reagan Justice Department in 1982. It was the George H.W. Bush Justice Department in 1992. It was the George W. Bush Justice Department in 2002.

And so the history of section 5 and the Voting Rights Act is a glorious one, not just as it relates to the preservation of our democracy, addressing the need to make sure that every American, regardless of race or color, has the capacity to participate in a meaningful way, but it's been traditionally viewed and executed through a bipartisan lens. We're hopeful that when the Supreme Court takes up oral argument on this matter in 2 days, that they will evaluate it on the merits and give due deference to Congress, which has consistently reauthorized it pursuant to its power under article I of the Constitution as well as the 15th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America.

There really is no case to be made that it should be declared invalid. I believe we've illustrated time after time how it's been used to protect the integrity of our democracy, and we're hopeful that at some point down the road, it will no longer be necessary. But, Mr. Speaker, that moment has not arrived in America as of today.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Representative JEFFRIES. As you just indicated, Wednesday's hearing before the Supreme Court is to hear arguments as they pertain to whether to preserve section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. That is why the Congressional Black Caucus has come to the floor this evening, to bring attention to this very important provision of current law and to ensure that, as the legislative branch, we have the ability to preserve and to strengthen the Voting Rights Act as necessary.

We want to continue to push forward. There are those who have come before who have fought, bled, and died for our right to vote. We want to continue to fight and preserve everyone's right to vote.

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

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, in the run-up to the 2012 elections Republican-controlled legislatures passed a wide range of bills designed to restrict, rather than broaden, access to the ballot box. Despite multiple comprehensive reports and findings demonstrating that impersonating another voter is more rare than being struck by lightning, thirty one states now require ID, fifteen require photo ID, for voting, potentially disenfranchising five million voters mostly minorities, especially African Americans, and senior citizens. Other recent oppressive state laws aim at making it more difficult to register to vote and scale back early voting periods. Several states undertook massive (and subsequently proven fraudulent) purges of the voting rolls. Some of the most egregious attempts at suppressing the vote occurred in states which required pre-clearance under the 1965 Voting Rights Act because of their long history of voter suppression. Without Section 5 in place, many of the roughly 2,400 blocked voting changes proposed since 1982 would have had a significant adverse impact on voters.

Following the Civil War Congress recognized the critical central role of voting in our democracy and passed the fifteenth amendment which gives the Federal Government primary authority to prevent discrimination in voting. The amendment was ratified by the states and the Voting Rights Act (VRA) is a direct implementation of that authority to prevent any attempt to limit access to the ballot. The Supreme Court has itself noted that Congress, not the Court, has the special responsibility to protect voting rights. The fact is that, in an overwhelming bipartisan vote in 2006, Congress found that voting discrimination continues to persist, and it undermines our democracy and therefore reauthorized the VRA for twenty-five years.

This year marks the 48th Anniversary of the 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery March which led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act and I join in calling for a new generation of Freedom Riders to join with tens of thousands of original Freedom Riders in standing tall for our hard won voting rights.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the Supreme Court prepares to hear arguments in Shelby County v. Holder this week, it is critical that we recognize the importance of upholding the Voting Rights Act (VRA) in order to preserve the rights of all Americans. To strip the VRA of its most effective provision now would be to turn our backs on millions of Americans who continue to be targeted by discriminatory voting practices.

The 2012 Presidential Election exemplified the persistent threats that work to disenfranchise voters. Long lines at polling places, the purging of voter registration rolls, and blatant efforts to intimidate select groups of voters have mired the electoral process in many localities. In Texas, two harsh voter mandates were passed in 2012 which were designed to create hurdles to voting with restrictive voter ID laws, and to dilute the voting power of the burgeoning minority population. In a testament to the necessity of the VRA, both measures were blocked under Section 5, preventing inequality of voting rights in Texas.

Historically, Congress has always reauthorized Section 5 of the VRA on a bipartisan basis, and as recently as 2006. The U.S. Department of Justice has filed more than 1,000 objections under Section 5 since 1982, protecting millions of voters from discrimination. The Supreme Court has upheld Section 5 of the VRA four times.

Mr. Speaker, voter disenfranchisement still poses a great threat to the electoral process. The Voting Rights Act is an essential tool in our fight to preserve equal voting rights for all Americans. Through the VRA, Congress has exercised its constitutional authority under the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to ensure voters have free and fair access to the polls. Until there is sufficient evidence to suggest that efforts to suppress minority voters have been mitigated, the Voting Rights Act must be upheld in its entirety.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of illness.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 26, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third and fourth quarters of 2012 pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS, Chairman, Jan. 25, 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Adrienne Ramsay	10/7	10/9	Russia		802.00						802.00
	10/9	10/11	Switzerland		900.00						900.00
Commercial Airfare							10,439.70				10,439.70
Donna Shahbaz	10/8	10/11	Italy		806.00						806.00
	10/12	10/13	Luxembourg								
	10/13	10/14	France								
	10/14	10/17	Germany		360.58						360.58
Local Transportation Costs							1,722.00				1,722.00
Misc. Staff Delegation Costs									1,859.44		1,859.44
Commercial Airfare							2,561.20				2,561.20
Sarah Young	10/8	10/11	Italy		806.00						806.00
	10/12	10/13	Luxembourg								
	10/13	10/14	France								
	10/14	10/17	Germany		360.58						360.58
Local Transportation Costs							1,843.00				1,843.00
Misc. Staff Delegation Costs									1,859.44		1,859.44
Commercial Airfare							2,845.40				2,845.40
Robert Blair	10/14	10/20	Russia		2,278.00						2,278.00
Local Transportation Costs							3,899.00				3,899.00
Interpreter's Service									4,466.58		4,466.58
Commercial Airfare							9,460.25				9,460.25
Loraine Heckenberg	10/14	10/23	Russia		3,379.35						3,379.35
Local Transportation Costs							4,011.00				4,011.00
Interpreter's Service									4,466.58		4,466.58
Commercial Airfare							7,615.05				7,615.05
Taunja Berquam	10/14	10/20	Russia		2,278.00						2,278.00
Local Transportation Costs							3,829.00				3,829.00
Interpreter's Service									4,466.58		4,466.58
Commercial Airfare							9,465.65				9,465.65
Brooke Boyer	10/9	10/10	Italy		328.50						328.50
	10/10	10/13	Kenya		914.78						914.78
	10/13	10/16	Uganda		928.68						928.68
	10/16	10/17	Djibouti		340.00						340.00
Misc. Transportation Costs							126.00				126.00
Commercial Airfare							9,846.50				9,846.50
Tim Prince	10/9	10/10	Italy		328.50						328.50
	10/10	10/13	Kenya		914.78						914.78
	10/13	10/16	Uganda		928.68						928.68
	10/16	10/17	Djibouti		340.00						340.00
Misc. Transportation Costs							32.00				32.00
Commercial Airfare							9,846.50				9,846.50
BG Wright	10/9	10/10	Italy		328.50						328.50
	10/10	10/13	Kenya		914.78						914.78
	10/13	10/16	Uganda		928.68						928.68
	10/16	10/17	Djibouti		340.00						340.00
Misc. Transportation Costs							138.00				138.00
Commercial Airfare							9,846.50				9,846.50
Megan Rosenbusch	10/9	10/10	Italy		328.50						328.50
	10/10	10/13	Kenya		914.78						914.78
	10/13	10/16	Uganda		928.68						928.68
	10/16	10/17	Djibouti		340.00						340.00
Misc. Transportation Costs							155.00				155.00
Commercial Airfare							9,846.50				9,846.50
Dena Baron	10/14	10/17	France		310.00						310.00
	10/17	10/19	Germany		293.00						293.00
Misc. Staff Delegation Costs							1,214.60				1,214.60
Misc. Transportation Costs							168.74				168.74
Commercial Airfare							3,153.50				3,153.50
Michael Friedberg	10/14	10/17	France		310.00						310.00
	10/17	10/19	Germany		293.00						293.00
Misc. Staff Delegation Costs									1,214.60		1,214.60
Misc. Transportation Costs							168.74				168.74
Commercial Airfare							3.018.50				3,018.50
Doug Disrud	10/16	10/17	France		165.00						165.00
	10/17	10/19	Germany		293.00						293.00
Misc. Staff Delegation Costs									550.60		550.60
Misc. Transportation Costs							168.74				168.74
Commercial Airfare							3,102.74				3,102.74
Kate Hallahan	10/14	10/17	France		310.00						310.00
	10/17	10/19	Germany		293.00						293.00
Misc. Staff Delegation Costs									1,214.60		1,214.60
Misc. Transportation Costs							168.74				168.74
Commercial Airfare							3,118.50				3,118.50
Joseph William Carlile	10/14	10/17	France		310.00						310.00
	10/17	10/19	Germany		293.00						293.00
Misc. Staff Delegation Costs									1,214.60		1,214.60
Misc. Transportation Costs							168.74				168.74
Commercial Airfare							3,118.50				3,118.50
Hon. Rodney Frelinghuysen	12/7	12/9	Bahrain		[3]248.00						248.00
	12/9	12/11	Saudi Arabia		[3]126.00						126.00
	12/10	12/11	Belgium		[3]154.00						154.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2012—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Committee total					25,416.35		113,883.69		22,527.62		161,827.66

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. HAROLD ROGERS, Chairman, Jan. 28, 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Visit to India, Afghanistan, October 12–19, 2013:											
Hon. Duncan Hunter	10/17	10/18	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
Commercial Transportation							21,063.95				21,063.95
Hon. Adam Smith	10/13	10/17	India		293.94						293.94
	10/17	10/18	Afghanistan								
Commercial Transportation							18,030.85				18,030.85
Hon. Todd Platts	10/13	10/17	India		305.94						305.94
	10/17	10/18	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
Commercial Transportation							15,037.40				15,037.40
Ryan Crumpler	10/13	10/17	India		629.00						629.00
	10/17	10/18	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
Commercial Transportation							17,130.50				17,130.50
Paul Arcangeli	10/14	10/17	India		520.00						520.00
	10/17	10/18	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
Commercial Transportation							19,585.56				19,585.56
Michael Casey	10/13	10/17	India		629.00						629.00
	10/17	10/18	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
Commercial Transportation							17,130.50				17,130.50
Visit to Japan and Taiwan, November 16–21, 2012:											
Hon. Robert J. Wittman	11/18	11/19	Japan		245.00						245.00
	11/19	11/21	Taiwan		212.01						212.01
	11/21	11/21	Japan								
Commercial Transportation							10,200.60				10,200.60
Hon. Madeleine Z. Bordallo	11/18	11/19	Japan		245.00						245.00
	11/19	11/21	Taiwan		212.01						212.01
	11/21	11/21	Japan								
Commercial Transportation							10,200.60				10,200.60
Michele Pearce	11/18	11/19	Japan		245.00						245.00
	11/19	11/21	Taiwan		212.01						212.01
	11/21	11/21	Japan								
Commercial Transportation							10,200.60				10,200.60
Debra Wada	11/18	11/19	Japan		245.00						245.00
	11/19	11/21	Taiwan		212.01						212.01
	11/21	11/21	Japan								
Commercial Transportation							10,200.60				10,200.60
Visit to United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan, Bahrain, November 16–22, 2012 with CODEL Chaffetz:											
Hon. Mike Coffman	11/18	11/18	United Arab Emirates		194.70						194.70
	11/18	11/19	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	11/19	11/21	Bahrain		333.91						333.91
Committee total					5,011.53		148,781.16				153,792.69

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON, Chairman, Jan. 31, 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Bill Flores	11/18	11/19	Japan		245.00						245.00
	11/19	11/21	Taiwan		212.01						212.01
	11/21	11/21	United States				13,575.10				13,575.10
Committee total					457.01		13,575.10				14,032.11

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. PAUL RYAN, Chairman, Jan. 30, 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Brett Guthrie	6/30	7/2	Slovakia		542.29		(3)				542.29
	7/2	7/4	Georgia		862.62		(3)				862.62
	7/4	7/5	Djibouti		342.04		(3)				342.04
	7/5	7/6	Spain		496.89		(3)				496.89
Hon. Gene Green	6/30	7/3	Portugal		807.00		(3)				807.00
	7/3	7/4	Spain		345.00		(3)				345.00
	7/4	7/9	Croatia		1,488.33		(3)				1,488.33
Hon. Marsha Blackburn	9/4	9/5	Thailand		103.00		(3)				103.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2012—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
	9/5	9/7	India		218.00		(3)				218.00
	9/7	9/8	Azerbaijan		373.00		(3)				373.00
	9/8	9/10	Austria		708.00		(3)				708.00
Hon. Phil Gingrey	8/18	8/20	Spain		320.50		(3)				320.50
	8/20	8/22	Germany		593.04		(3)				593.04
	8/23	8/25	United Kingdom		586.00		(3)				586.00
Hon. Adam Kinzinger	6/30	7/2	Slovakia		542.29		(3)				542.29
	7/2	7/4	Georgia		862.62		(3)				862.62
	7/4	7/4	Djibouti		342.04		(3)				342.04
	7/5	7/6	Spain		496.89		(3)				496.89
Committee total					10,029.55						10,029.55

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. FRED UPTON, Chairman, Jan. 31, 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1, AND DEC. 31, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Shannon Taylor	10/21	10/25	Uruguay		874.83		4,044.64		950.00		5,869.47
Returned per diem	10/21	10/25	Uruguay		(30.00)						(30.00)
Michelle Ash	10/21	10/25	Uruguay		874.83		4,044.64		1,000.51		5,919.98
Returned per diem	10/21	10/25	Uruguay		(156.08)						(156.00)
Felipe Mendoza	10/21	10/25	Uruguay		874.83		3,773.04		950.00		5,597.87
Returned per diem	10/21	10/25	Uruguay		(30.91)						(30.91)
Mary Neumayr	11/12	11/16	Switzerland		1,936.50		1,981.50				3,918.00
Returned per diem	11/12	11/16	Switzerland		(325.32)						(325.32)
Jacqueline Cohen	11/12	11/16	Switzerland		1,936.50		1,981.50				3,918.00
Returned per diem	11/12	11/16	Switzerland		(220.00)						(220.00)
David Redl	12/3	12/7	United Arab Emirates		1,245.78		2,538.70		343.20		4,127.68
Shawn Chang	12/3	12/7	United Arab Emirates		1,245.78		2,538.70				3,784.48
Returned per diem	12/3	12/7	United Arab Emirates		(130.00)						(130.00)
Roger Sherman	12/3	12/7	United Arab Emirates		1,245.78		2,538.70				3,784.48
Returned per diem	12/3	12/7	United Arab Emirates		(261.00)						(261.00)
Committee total					9,081.52		23,441.42		3,243.71		35,766.65

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. FRED UPTON, Chairman, Jan. 31, 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1, AND DEC. 31, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Stevan Pearce	11/8	11/12	Egypt		175.00						175.00
	11/12	11/12	England		175.00		19,524.60		218.66		19,743.26
Committee total					175.00		19,524.60		218.66		19,918.26

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JEB HENSARLING, Chairman, Jan. 30, 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1, AND DEC. 31, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Dennis Halpin	10/9	10/13	China		911.00		10,983.80				11,894.80
	10/13	10/16	South Korea		987.00		(4)				987.00
	10/16	10/19	Japan		1,545.00		(4)				1,545.00
Janice Kaguyutan	10/9	10/13	China		886.00		14,237.00				15,123.00
	10/13	10/16	South Korea		877.00		(4)				877.00
Douglas Anderson	10/9	10/13	China		851.00		11,018.80				11,869.80
	10/13	10/16	South Korea		987.00		(4)				987.00
	10/16	10/19	Japan		1,439.00		(4)				1,439.00
Hon. Karen Bass	10/6	10/7	Ghana		319.00		(3)				319.00
	10/7	10/11	Gabon		2,100.00		(3)				2,100.00
	10/11	10/13	Botswana		405.00		630.00				1,035.00
	10/13	10/14	Senegal		285.00		7,039.00				7,324.00
Hon. Russ Carnahan	10/6	10/7	Ghana		319.00		(3)				319.00
	10/7	10/11	Gabon		2,100.00		(3)				2,100.00
	10/11	10/13	Botswana		405.00		630.00				1,035.00
	10/13	10/14	Senegal		285.00		3,400.70				3,685.70
Hon. David Cicilline	11/17	11/19	Japan		245.00		14,716.10				245.00
	11/19	11/21	Taiwan		247.00		(4)				247.00
Hon. Chris Smith	12/6	12/9	Bolivia		401.47		3,471.90				3,873.37
Sheri Rickert	12/6	12/9	Bolivia		427.69		122.99				550.68
Hon. Jeff Duncan	11/18	11/19	Afghanistan				(3)				
	11/19	11/20	Bahrain		439.65		11,581.70				12,021.35
	11/18	11/18	United Arab Emirates		194.66		(4)				194.66
Alan Makovsky	12/7	12/9	Bahrain		150.00						

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1, AND DEC. 31, 2012—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Committee total				16,806.47		16,806.47		77,831.99			94,638.46

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.
[4] Commercial air fare.

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, Jan. 31, 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DOC HASTINGS, Chairman, Jan. 30, 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Jason Chaffetz	10/5	10/7	Germany		247.00		8,023.90				8,270.90
James Lewis	10/5	10/7	Germany		247.00		1,821.70				2,068.70
Hon. Jason Chaffetz	11/17	11/18	United Arab Emirates		194.66						194.66
	11/18	11/19	Afghanistan								
	11/19	11/21	Bahrain		439.65		11,713.50				12,153.15
Thomas Alexander	11/17	11/18	United Arab Emirates		194.66						194.66
	11/18	11/19	Afghanistan								
	11/19	11/21	Bahrain		439.65		11,713.50				12,153.15
Delegation expenses									2,636.81		2,636.81
Committee total											37,672.03

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA, Chairman, Jan. 28, 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. David Dreier	10/6	10/13	Africa		944.00		6,441.00				7,385.00
Bradley Smith	10/6	10/13	Africa		944.00		6,441.00				7,385.00
Rachael Leman	10/6	10/13	Africa		944.00		5,740.00				6,684.00
Hugh Halpern	10/14	10/16	Belgium		546.00		2,076.90				2,622.90
Miles Lackey	10/14	10/16	Belgium		546.00		2,076.90				2,622.90
Hugh Halpern	10/16	10/19	United Kingdom		1,497.00						1,497.00
Miles Lackey	10/16	10/19	United Kingdom		1,497.00						1,497.00
Hon. Pete Sessions	11/30	12/2	Mexico		190.00				503.00		693.00
Hon. Jared Polis	11/30	12/2	Mexico		190.00				442.00		632.00
Committee total											31,018.80

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. PETE SESSIONS, Chairman, Jan. 30, 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Brad Miller	10/14	10/15	India		109.00		(3)				109.00
	10/15	10/16	India		126.00		(3)				126.00
	10/16	10/17	India		109.00		(3)				109.00
	10/17	10/18	Afghanistan		56.00		(3)				56.00
Neil Canfield	11/25	11/30	United Arab Emirates		2,133.30		7,655.70				9,789.00
					2,533.30		7,655.70				10,189.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. RALPH M. HALL, Jan. 29, 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Jeff Miller	11/8	11/12	Czech Republic		544.00		5,278.96		1,154.21		6,977.17
Committee total					544.00		5,278.96		1,154.21		6,977.17

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JEFF MILLER, Chairman, Jan. 29, 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Ron Kind	10/17	10/18	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
	10/13	10/17	India		1,065.63						1,065.63
							3,152.26				33,152.26
Hon. Erik Paulsen	11/17	11/18	United Arab Emirates		194.66						194.66
	11/18	11/19	Afghanistan								
	11/19	11/21	Bahrain		439.95						439.95
							11,132.70				11,132.70
Committee total					1,756.24		44,284.96				46,041.020

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DAVE CAMP, Chairman, Jan. 31. 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Darren Dick	10/14	10/15	Middle East		485.00						
	10/15	10/16	Middle East		267.00						
	10/16	10/18	Middle East		737.64						
	10/18	18/19	Middle East		493.00						
Commercial Airfare							10,523.20				12,505.84
Heather Molino	10/14	10/15	Middle East		485.00						
	10/15	10/16	Middle East		267.00						
	10/16	10/18	Middle East		737.64						
	10/18	18/19	Middle East		493.00						
Commercial Airfare							10,523.20				12,505.84
Geof Kahn	10/14	10/15	Middle East		485.00						
	10/15	10/16	Middle East		267.00						
	10/16	10/18	Middle East		737.64						
	10/18	18/19	Middle East		493.00						
Commercial Airfare							10,523.20				12,505.84
Darren Dick	10/25	10/27	Eurasia		501.10						
	10/27	10/29	Eurasia		595.76						
	10/29	10/30	Eurasia		359.12						
	10/30	11/1	Eurasia		731.04						
Commercial Airfare							4,602.60				6,789.62
Sarah Geffroy	10/25	10/27	Eurasia		501.10						
	10/27	10/29	Eurasia		595.76						
	10/29	10/30	Eurasia		359.12						
	10/30	11/1	Eurasia		731.04						
Commercial Airfare							4,602.60				6,789.62
Hon. Mike Rogers	12/7	12/9	Middle East		[3]1,545.18						
	12/9	12/10	Middle East		[3]485.00						
	12/10	12/11	Europe		[3]353.21						2,383.39
Hon. Dutch Ruppersberger	12/7	12/9	Middle East		[3]1,545.18						
	12/9	12/10	Middle East		[3]485.00						
	12/10	12/11	Europe		[3]353.21						2,383.39
Hon. Devin Nunes	12/7	12/9	Middle East		[3]1,545.18						
	12/9	12/10	Middle East		[3]485.00						
	12/10	12/11	Europe		[3]353.21						2,383.39
Hon. Michael Conaway	12/7	12/9	Middle East		[3]1,545.18						
	12/9	12/10	Middle East		[3]485.00						
	12/10	12/11	Europe		[3]353.21						2,383.39
Hon. Rodney P. Frelinghuysen	12/7	12/9	Middle East		[3]1,545.18						
	12/9	12/10	Middle East		[3]485.00						
	12/10	12/11	Europe		[3]353.21						2,383.39
Michael Allen	12/7	12/9	Middle East		[3]1,545.18						
	12/9	12/10	Middle East		[3]485.00						
	12/10	12/11	Europe		[3]353.21						2,383.39
Heather Molino	12/7	12/9	Middle East		[3]1,545.18						
	12/9	12/10	Middle East		[3]485.00						
	12/10	12/11	Europe		[3]353.21						2,383.39
Susan Phalen	12/7	12/9	Middle East		[3]1,545.18						
	12/9	12/10	Middle East		[3]485.00						
	12/10	12/11	Europe		[3]353.21						2,383.39
Jamil Jaffer	12/7	12/9	Middle East		[3]1,545.18						
	12/9	12/10	Middle East		[3]485.00						
	12/10	12/11	Europe		[3]353.21						2,383.39
"In accordance with title 22, United State Code, Section 1754(b)(2), information as would identify the foreign countries in which Committee Members and staff have traveled is omitted."											
Committee total											81,720.26

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. MIKE ROGERS of Michigan, Chairman, Jan. 31, 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Steve Cohen	9/28	10/2	Georgia	Lari	1,129.00		14,550.00				15,679.00
Paul Carter	9/23	9/27	Poland	Zloty	1,028.00		17,118.10				18,146.10
	9/28	10/3	Georgia	Lari	1,608.00						1,608.00
	12/2	12/8	Ireland	Euro	2,433.00		1,295.80				12,631.23
Winsome Packer	9/28	10/3	Georgia	Lari	1,815.43		10,815.80				12,631.23
Robert Hand	10/4	10/8	Albania	Lek	867.00		3,603.50				4,470.50
Orest Deychakiwsky	10/25	10/30	Ukraine	Hryvnia	1,789.58		7,856.20				9,645.78
	10/30	11/1	Germany	Euro	643.35						643.35
Daniel Redfield	10/25	10/30	Ukraine	Hryvnia	1,650.75		8,300.00				9,950.75
	10/30	11/1	Germany	Euro	643.36						643.35
Mischa Thompson	9/30	10/5	Poland	Zloty	1,285.00		2,713.70				3,998.70
	10/5	10/7	France	Euro	991.00						991.00
	11/14	11/17	Austria	Euro	906.00		1,790.10				2,696.10
	12/1	12/3	Spain	Euro	280.00		2,405.60				2,685.60
	12/3	12/7	Ireland	Euro	2,095.23						2,095.23
Erika Schlager	9/20	9/23	Austria	Euro	1,130.00		2,248.60				3,378.60
	10/23	10/4	Poland	Zloty	2,714.00						2,714.00
	10/23	10/26	Germany	Euro	1,044		1,963.10				3,007.10
	11/26	11/30	Czech Republic	Koruna	1,564.00		1,705.20				3,269.20
Janice Helwig	9/23	10/4	Poland	Zloty	3,167.00						3,167.00
	10/4	10/6	Albania	Lek	578.00		883.00				1,461.00
	11/6	11/8	Solvenia	Euro	286.00		816.40				1,102.40
	12/2	12/8	Ireland	Euro	2,400.00		2,131.80				4,531.80
	10/6	12/21	Austria	Euro	19,472.03		3,134.60				22,606.63
Michael Ochs	9/27	10/4	Poland	Zloty	2,799.00		1,464.50				3,263.50
Alex Johnson	8/1	8/6	Poland	Zloty	1,285.00		5,456.30				6,741.30
Allison Hollabaugh	9/27	10/2	Poland	Zloty	1,277.37		1,495.50				2,772.87
Shelly Han	10/15	10/18	Austria	Euro	1,193.00		3,297.70				4,490.70
Committee total					57,074.09		95,045.50				152,119.59

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

Mr. MARK MILOSCH, Jan. 31, 2013.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

500. A letter from the Attorney, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's ''Major'' final rule — Ability-to-Repay and Qualified Mortgage Standards Under the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z) [CFPB-2011-0008; CFPB-2012-0022] (RIN: 3170-AA17) received February 15, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

501. A letter from the Attorney, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's ''Major'' final rule — Mortgage Servicing Rules Under the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z) [Docket No.: CFPB-2012-0033] (RIN: 3170-AA14) received February 15, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

502. A letter from the Attorney, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's ''Major'' final rule—Mortgage Servicing Rules Under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (Regulation X) [Docket No.: CFPB-2012-0034] (RIN: 3170-AA14) received February 15, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

503. A letter from the Attorney, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's ''Major'' final rule—Loan Originator Compensation Requirements Under the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z) [Docket No.: CFPB-2012-0037] (RIN: 3170-AA13) received February 15, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

504. A letter from the Director, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule—Guarantees for Bonds Issued for Community or Economic Development (RIN: 1559-AA01) received February 20, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

505. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's Alternative Fuel Vehicle program report for FY 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

506. A letter from the Acting Asssitant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Pub. L. 107–243), the Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 1991 (Pub. L. 102–1), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, a report prepared by the Department of State for the October 23, 2012—December 21, 2012 reporting period including matters relating to post-liberation Iraq, pursuant to Public Law 107–243, section 4(a) (116 Stat. 1501); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

507. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency with respect to the Government of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, as amended and expanded on February 26, 2004, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2013, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 113–11); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

508. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting waiver of requirement to certify conditions under Section 203 of the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

509. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a notification that the last elements of a deployment of approximately 40 additional U.S. military personnel has entered Niger with the consent of the Government of Niger; (H. Doc. No. 113–12); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. FOXX (for herself, Mr. KLINE, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. SALMON, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. MESSER, Mrs. ELLMERS, and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 803. A bill to reform and strengthen the workforce investment system of the Nation to put Americans back to work and make the United States more competitive in the 21st century; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Agriculture, Veterans' Affairs, Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COFFMAN:

H.R. 804. A bill to cancel the 251A sequester for the revised security category and to provide for a reduced spending plan with respect to the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. PRICE of Georgia (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 805. A bill to repeal certain changes to contracts with Medicare Quality Improvement Organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 806. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the requirement for annual reports on Comptroller General reviews of the accuracy of Department of Veterans Affairs medical budget submissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK (for himself, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. PRICE of

Georgia, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. COLE, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Ms. FOXX, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BUCSHON, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. LABRADOR, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 807. A bill to require that the Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. HAHN, Mr. POLIS, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. MOORE):

H.R. 808. A bill to establish a Department of Peacebuilding; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 809. A bill to provide for improvement of field emergency medical services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HANABUSA:

H.R. 810. A bill to grant the Secretary of Defense the authority to transfer funding under a continuing resolution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 811. A bill to add the 9/11 Health and Compensation Programs to the list of exempt programs under PAYGO; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. HAHN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CLAY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. MORAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. KEATING, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COOPER, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 812. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve education and prevention related to campus sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida (for himself and Mr. MICHAUD):

H.R. 813. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for advance appropriations for certain discretionary accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. MOORE (for herself, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 814. A bill to reauthorize and amend the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families and related programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 815. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain dividends and distributions paid to individuals from certain small businesses exempt from tax to the extent of the increased wages of the small business; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RIBBLE (for himself, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. PETRI, and Mr. MCKINLEY):

H.R. 816. A bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to allow intraagency transfers of funds to provide more flexibility for the agency to comply with a presidential sequestration order for fiscal year 2013 or 2014; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself and Mr. REICHERT):

H.R. 817. A bill to further the mission of the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative Advisory Committee by continuing its development of policy recommendations and technical solutions on information sharing and interoperability, and enhancing its pursuit of benefits and cost savings for local, State, tribal, and Federal justice agencies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TIPTON (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. LABRADOR, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. DAINES):

H.R. 818. A bill to address the bark beetle epidemic, drought, deteriorating forest health conditions, and high risk of wildfires on National Forest System land and land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management in the United States by expanding authorities established in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 to provide emergency measures for high-risk areas identified by such States, to make permanent Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management authority to conduct good-neighbor cooperation with States to reduce wildfire risks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan (for herself, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ISSA, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. HARPER, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. DELANEY):

H. Res. 77. A resolution establishing an academic competition in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics among students in Congressional districts; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H. Res. 78. A resolution expressing support for designation of July as National Sarcoma Awareness Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FATTAH (for himself and Mr. COBLE):

H. Res. 79. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of International Water Safety Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HONDA, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. BARTON, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. MATHESON, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. LEWIS):

H. Res. 80. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 803.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. COFFMAN:

H.R. 804.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The power of Congress enumerated in Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution ''to provide for the common Defense'', ''to raise and support Armies'', ''to provide and maintain a Navy'', ''to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces'', and ''to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the militia''.

By Mr. PRICE of Georgia:

H.R. 805.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7

Imposes Congressional accountability for the spending of the other branches of government. Congress has the duty to fund and provide oversight to the federal administrative agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services and direct the manner in which they expend taxpayer funds.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 806.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 807.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 2 of the United States Constitution, which confer on Congress the power to collect and manage revenue for the payment of debts owed by the United States and to borrow money on the credit of the United States.

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 2 United States Constitution:

''The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imports and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on credit of the United States;''

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 808. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 809.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. HANABUSA:

H.R. 810.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress ''to provide for the common Defence'', ''to raise and support Armies'', ''to provide and maintain a Navy'' and ''to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces'' as enumerated in Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 811.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 812.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, which reads: The Congress shall have Power * * * To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Excution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 813.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 814.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 815.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Sections 7 and 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RIBBLE:

H.R. 816.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section, 9, Clsuse 7.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 817.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8. ''. . . provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States. . .''

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 818.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV Section 3 clause 2 United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 31: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 32: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. AMODEI, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. YOHO, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 35: Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 55: Mr. YOHO and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 60: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 69: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 104: Mr. DESANTIS.

H.R. 111: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 129: Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 130: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 131: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 137: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. BASS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 138: Mr. COHEN, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BASS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 141: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. WAXMAN, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 142: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 147: Mr. YOHO and Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 148: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. MARKEY.

H.R. 149: Mr. YOHO and Mr. COTTON.

H.R. 164: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. MICA, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 182: Mr. CAPUANO and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 183: Mr. CARSON of Indiana and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 184: Mr. CARSON of Indiana and Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 194: Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. DINGELL, and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 200: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 234: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 239: Mr. YOHO, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 282: Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 284: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 292: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 309: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. LONG, and Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 311: Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 317: Mr. SOUTHERLAND.

H.R. 321: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 322: Mr. GARDNER, Mr. SCALISE, and Mr. STOCKMAN.

H.R. 324: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 334: Mrs. WAGNER and Mr. MICA.

H.R. 335: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 347: Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 351: Mr. RENACCI, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. GARDNER, Mr Holding, Mr. BARLETTA, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 354: Mr. COSTA, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 357: Mr. ROSS, Mr. HUNTER, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 358: Mr. KLINE, Mr. KIND, and Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 360: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. CHU, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. WATT, and Mr. LOWENTHA.

H.R. 367: Mr. PITTENGER and Mr. YOUNG of Florida.

H.R. 376: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 377: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. CARNEY, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. BARBER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 392: Mr. FARR and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 398: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 399: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 410: Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 416: Mr. FORBES, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. PITTENGER, and Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 419: Mr. STOCKMAN and Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 427: Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 435: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 436: Mr. PERRY, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. FORBES, Mr. Barr, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. PITTENGER.

H.R. 445: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. HANNA, Mr. LATHAM, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 454: Mr. GERLACH.

H.R. 482: Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 485: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 495: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. JONES, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. HANNA, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. GERLACH, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 497: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 498: Mr. PEARCE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. HANABUSA, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. WATT, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. HOYER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. RAHALL, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. RICHMOND, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 503: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 507: Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 513: Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 515: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 519: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. MENG, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. RUSH, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 523: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. SALMON, Mr. BARBER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. FORBES, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. HUNTER, and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 530: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 539: Mr. RUSH and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 540: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 541: Mr. DINGELL.

H.R. 543: Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. HAHN, Mr. AMODEI, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. PALAZZO, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 544: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 557: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 559: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. BENISHEK, and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 563: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 564: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 565: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. MARKEY.

H.R. 567: Mr. JORDAN and Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 568: Mr. JORDAN.
H.R. 569: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 570: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 576: Mr. CARTER and Mr. SALMON.
H.R. 578: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 580: Mr. SHUSTER and Mr. CHAFFETZ.
H.R. 582: Mr. STEWARD, Mr. YOHO, Mr. FORBES, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. COTTON, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. BONNER, Mr. AMODEI, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. MULVANEY.
H.R. 594: Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. HALL, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. HOLT, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 595: Mr. HONDA and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 607: Mr. FORBES, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 621: Mr. POSEY, Mr. DESANTIS, and Ms. GRANGER.
H.R. 627: Mr. MORAN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WALZ, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 632: Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 635: Mr. GARDNER and Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 637: Mr. GARRETT and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
H.R. 645: Ms. CHU, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 650: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. MORAN, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 657: Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 661: Mr. TONKO and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 662: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BRADY of Texas, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 668: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 669: Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 671: Mr. POLIS and Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 681: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. PITTS.
H.R. 683: Mr. KILMER, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 693: Mr. DOYLE, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. HECK of Nevada.
H.R. 699: Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. KEATING, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 710: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 718: Mr. SCALISE, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LONG, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. FINCHER, and Mr. KING of Iowa
H.R. 719: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 720: Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 721: Mr. BACHUS and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 726: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 729: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 730: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 738: Mrs. HARTZLER and Mr. ENYART.
H.R. 751: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. YOHO, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 752: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 755: Mr. REED, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. RUNYAN, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. HANNA, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 756: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, and Mr. GARRETT.
H.R. 763: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. BARR, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. STOCKMAN, and Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 772: Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 774: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 780: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. JONES, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. HUNTER.
H.R. 785: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 786: Mr. GRAYSON.
H.R. 791: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 792: Mr. HUNTER, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. GRAYSON.
H.R. 798: Mr. SABLAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HOLT, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KEATING, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. BASS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. DINGELL.
H.J. Res. 1: Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. CAMP, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. FLORES, Mr. FORBES, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. ISSA, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. KLINE, Mr. LONG, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. ROSS, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. SCALISE, and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.J. Res. 2: Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. CAMP, Mr. COLE, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. FLORES, Mr. FORBES, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. ISSA, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. KLINE, Mr. LONG, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MESSER, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. ROSS, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. TIBERI, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.J. Res. 21: Mr. LYNCH.
H.J. Res. 28: Mr. JONES and Mr. NUNNELEE.
H. Con. Res. 12: Ms. CHU and Mr. ELLISON.
H. Con. Res. 17: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. WATT, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Res. 10: Mr. ENYART, Mr. LEWIS, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H. Res. 24: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. WOLF, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H. Res. 30: Mr. LATHAM, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. GARCIA, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. ANDREWS, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. CHU.
H. Res. 71: Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. ROSS.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2013 No. 26

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we lift our hearts in praise to You for the gift of this new day. You have ordained the seasons of the year and also the seasons of our lives. Strengthen us to do Your will whether we are in life's springtime, summer, autumn, or winter.

Lord, inspire our lawmakers to receive the gift of Your presence which makes each day of life meaningful. Where there is fear, give courage; where there is anxiety, give peace; where there is doubt, give faith.

Today, we thank You for the legacy of our first President, George Washington, who heard Your voice and responded to Your guidance with reverence and love.

We pray in Your Sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

READING OF WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the Senate of January 24, 1901, as amended by the order of February 15, 2013, the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) will now read Washington's Farewell Address.

Ms. AYOTTE, at the rostrum, read the Farewell Address, as follows:

To the people of the United States

FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS: The period for a new election of a citizen to administer the executive government of the United States being not far distant, and the time actually arrived when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made.

I beg you at the same time to do me the justice to be assured that this resolution has not been taken without a strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation which binds a dutiful citizen to his country—and that, in withdrawing the tender of service which silence in my situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest, no deficiency of grateful respect for your past kindness, but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

The acceptance of, and continuance hitherto in, the office to which your suffrages have twice called me have been a uniform sacrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty and to a deference for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly hoped that it would have been much earlier in my power, consistently with motives which I was not at liberty to disregard, to return to that retirement from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you; but mature reflection on the then perplexed and critical posture of our affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my confidence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

I rejoice that the state of your concerns, external as well as internal, no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty or propriety and am persuaded, whatever partiality may be retained for my services, that in the present circumstances of our country you will not disapprove my determination to retire.

The impressions with which I first undertook the arduous trust were explained on the proper occasion. In the discharge of this trust, I will only say that I have, with good intentions, contributed towards the organization and administration of the government the best exertions of which a very fallible judgment was capable. Not unconscious in the outset of the inferiority of my qualifications, experience in my own eyes, perhaps still more in the eyes of others, has strengthened the motives to diffidence of myself, and every day the increasing weight of years admonishes me more and more that the shade of retirement is as necessary to me as it will be welcome. Satisfied that if any circumstances have given peculiar value to my services, they were temporary, I have the consolation to believe that, while choice and prudence invite me to quit the political scene, patriotism does not forbid it.

In looking forward to the moment which is intended to terminate the career of my public life, my feelings do not permit me to suspend the deep acknowledgment of that debt of gratitude which I owe to my beloved country for the many honors it has conferred upon me, still more for the steadfast confidence with which it has supported me and for the opportunities I have thence enjoyed of manifesting my inviolable attachment by services faithful and persevering, though in usefulness unequal to my zeal. If benefits have resulted to our country from these services, let it always be remembered to your praise and as an instructive example in our annals that, under circumstances in which the passions agitated in every direction were liable to

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

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mislead, amidst appearances sometimes dubious, vicissitudes of fortune often discouraging, in situations in which not unfrequently want of success has countenanced the spirit of criticism, the constancy of your support was the essential prop of the efforts and a guarantee of the plans by which they were effected. Profoundly penetrated with this idea, I shall carry it with me to my grave as a strong incitement to unceasing vows that Heaven may continue to you the choicest tokens of its beneficence; that your union and brotherly affection may be perpetual; that the free constitution, which is the work of your hands, may be sacredly maintained; that its administration in every department may be stamped with wisdom and virtue; that, in fine, the happiness of the people of these states, under the auspices of liberty, may be made complete by so careful a preservation and so prudent a use of this blessing as will acquire to them the glory of recommending it to the applause, the affection, and adoption of every nation which is yet a stranger to it.

Here, perhaps, I ought to stop. But a solicitude for your welfare, which cannot end but with my life, and the apprehension of danger natural to that solicitude, urge me on an occasion like the present to offer to your solemn contemplation, and to recommend to your frequent review, some sentiments which are the result of much reflection, of no inconsiderable observation, and which appear to me all important to the permanency of your felicity as a people. These will be offered to you with the more freedom as you can only see in them the disinterested warnings of a parting friend, who can possibly have no personal motive to bias his counsel. Nor can I forget, as an encouragement to it, your indulgent reception of my sentiments on a former and not dissimilar occasion.

Interwoven as is the love of liberty with every ligament of your hearts, no recommendation of mine is necessary to fortify or confirm the attachment.

The unity of government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you. It is justly so; for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquility at home, your peace abroad, of your safety, of your prosperity, of that very liberty which you so highly prize. But as it is easy to foresee that, from different causes and from different quarters, much pains will be taken, many artifices employed, to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth; as this is the point in your political fortress against which the batteries of internal and external enemies will be most constantly and actively (though often covertly and insidiously) directed, it is of infinite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national Union to your collective and individual happiness; that you should cherish a cordial, habitual, and immovable attachment to it; accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as of the palladium of your political safety and prosperity; watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can in any event be abandoned; and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts.

For this you have every inducement of sympathy and interest. Citizens by birth or choice of a common country, that country has a right to concentrate your affections. The name of American, which belongs to you in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism more than any appellation derived from local discriminations. With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together. The independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint councils and joint efforts—of common dangers, sufferings, and successes.

But these considerations, however powerfully they address themselves to your sensibility, are greatly outweighed by those which apply more immediately to your interest. Here every portion of our country finds the most commanding motives for carefully guarding and preserving the Union of the whole.

The North, in an unrestrained intercourse with the South, protected by the equal laws of a common government, finds in the productions of the latter great additional resources of maritime and commercial enterprise and precious materials of manufacturing industry. The South in the same intercourse, benefitting by the agency of the North, sees its agriculture grow and its commerce expand. Turning partly into its own channels the seamen of the North, it finds its particular navigation invigorated; and while it contributes, in different ways, to nourish and increase the general mass of the national navigation, it looks forward to the protection of a maritime strength to which itself is unequally adapted. The East, in a like intercourse with the West, already finds, and in the progressive improvement of interior communications by land and water will more and more find a valuable vent for the commodities which it brings from abroad or manufactures at home. The West derives from the East supplies requisite to its growth and comfort—and what is perhaps of still greater consequence, it must of necessity owe the secure enjoyment of indispensable outlets for its own productions to the weight, influence, and the future maritime strength of the Atlantic side of the Union, directed by an indissoluble community of interest as one nation. Any other tenure by which the West can hold this essential advantage, whether derived from its own separate strength or from an apostate and unnatural connection with any foreign power, must be intrinsically precarious.

While then every part of our country thus feels an immediate and particular interest in union, all the parts combined cannot fail to find in the united mass of means and efforts greater strength, greater resource, proportionably greater security from external danger, a less frequent interruption of their peace by foreign nations; and, what is of inestimable value! they must derive from union an exemption from those broils and wars between themselves which so frequently afflict neighboring countries not tied together by the same government, which their own rivalships alone would be sufficient to produce, but which opposite foreign alliances, attachments, and intrigues would stimulate and embitter. Hence likewise they will avoid the necessity of those overgrown military establishments, which under any form of government are inauspicious to liberty, and which are to be regarded as particularly hostile to republican liberty. In this sense it is, that your Union ought to be considered as a main prop of your liberty, and that the love of the one ought to endear to you the preservation of the other.

These considerations speak a persuasive language to every reflecting and virtuous mind and exhibit the continuance of the Union as a primary object of patriotic desire. Is there a doubt whether a common government can embrace so large a sphere? Let experience solve it. To listen to mere speculation in such a case were criminal. We are authorized to hope that a proper organization of the whole, with the auxiliary agency of governments for the respective subdivisions, will afford a happy issue to the experiment. It is well worth a fair and full experiment. With such powerful and obvious motives to union affecting all parts of our country, while experience shall not have demonstrated its impracticability, there will always be reason to distrust the patriotism of those who in any quarter may endeavor to weaken its bands.

In contemplating the causes which may disturb our Union, it occurs as matter of serious concern that any ground should have been furnished for characterizing parties by geographical discriminations—northern and southern—Atlantic and western; whence designing men may endeavor to excite a belief that there is a real difference of local interests and views. One of the expedients of party to acquire influence within particular districts is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts. You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies and heart burnings which spring from these misrepresentations. They tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection. The inhabitants

of our western country have lately had a useful lesson on this head. They have seen in the negotiation by the executive—and in the unanimous ratification by the Senate—of the treaty with Spain, and in the universal satisfaction at that event throughout the United States, a decisive proof how unfounded were the suspicions propagated among them of a policy in the general government and in the Atlantic states unfriendly to their interests in regard to the Mississippi. They have been witnesses to the formation of two treaties, that with Great Britain and that with Spain, which secure to them everything they could desire, in respect to our foreign relations, towards confirming their prosperity. Will it not be their wisdom to rely for the preservation of these advantages on the Union by which they were procured? Will they not henceforth be deaf to those advisers, if such there are, who would sever them from their brethren and connect them with aliens?

To the efficacy and permanency of your Union, a government for the whole is indispensable. No alliances, however strict, between the parts can be an adequate substitute. They must inevitably experience the infractions and interruptions which all alliances in all times have experienced. Sensible of this momentous truth, you have improved upon your first essay by the adoption of a Constitution of government better calculated than your former for an intimate Union and for the efficacious management of your common concerns. This government, the offspring of our own choice uninfluenced and unawed, adopted upon full investigation and mature deliberation, completely free in its principles, in the distribution of its powers uniting security with energy, and containing within itself a provision for its own amendment, has a just claim to your confidence and your support. Respect for its authority, compliance with its laws, acquiescence in its measures, are duties enjoined by the fundamental maxims of true liberty. The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions of government. But the Constitution which at any time exists, until changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is sacredly obligatory upon all. The very idea of the power and the right of the people to establish government presupposes the duty of every individual to obey the established government.

All obstructions to the execution of the laws, all combinations and associations under whatever plausible character with the real design to direct, control, counteract, or awe the regular deliberation and action of the constituted authorities, are destructive of this fundamental principle and of fatal tendency. They serve to organize faction; to give it an artificial and extraordinary force; to put in the place of the delegated will of the nation the will of a party, often a small but artful and enterprising minority of the community; and, according to the alternate triumphs of different parties, to make the public administration the mirror of the ill concerted and incongruous projects of faction, rather than the organ of consistent and wholesome plans digested by common councils and modified by mutual interests. However combinations or associations of the above description may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely, in the course of time and things, to become potent engines by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion.

Towards the preservation of your government and the permanency of your present happy state, it is requisite not only that you steadily discountenance irregular oppositions to its acknowledged authority but also that you resist with care the spirit of innovation upon its principles, however specious the pretexts. One method of assault may be to effect in the forms of the Constitution alterations which will impair the energy of the system and thus to undermine what cannot be directly overthrown. In all the changes to which you may be invited, remember that time and habit are at least as necessary to fix the true character of governments as of other human institutions, that experience is the surest standard by which to test the real tendency of the existing constitution of a country, that facility in changes upon the credit of mere hypotheses and opinion exposes to perpetual change from the endless variety of hypotheses and opinion; and remember, especially, that for the efficient management of your common interests in a country so extensive as ours, a government of as much vigor as is consistent with the perfect security of liberty is indispensable; liberty itself will find in such a government, with powers properly distributed and adjusted, its surest guardian. It is indeed little else than a name, where the government is too feeble to withstand the enterprises of faction, to confine each member of the society within the limits prescribed by the laws, and to maintain all in the secure and tranquil enjoyment of the rights of person and property.

I have already intimated to you the danger of parties in the state, with particular reference to the founding of them on geographical discriminations. Let me now take a more comprehensive view and warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party, generally.

This spirit, unfortunately, is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human mind. It exists under different shapes in all governments, more or less stifled, controlled, or repressed; but in those of the popular form it is seen in its greatest rankness and is truly their worst enemy.

The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries which result gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation on the ruins of public liberty.

Without looking forward to an extremity of this kind (which nevertheless ought not to be entirely out of sight) the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and the duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it.

It serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration. It agitates the community with ill founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, foments occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which find a facilitated access to the government itself through the channels of party passions. Thus the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and will of another.

There is an opinion that parties in free countries are useful checks upon the administration of the government and serve to keep alive the spirit of liberty. This within certain limits is probably true—and in governments of a monarchical cast patriotism may look with indulgence, if not with favor, upon the spirit of party. But in those of the popular character, in governments purely elective, it is a spirit not to be encouraged. From their natural tendency, it is certain there will always be enough of that spirit for every salutary purpose. And there being constant danger of excess, the effort ought to be by force of public opinion to mitigate and assuage it. A fire not to be quenched, it demands a uniform vigilance to prevent its bursting into a flame, lest instead of warming it should consume.

It is important, likewise, that the habits of thinking in a free country should inspire caution in those entrusted with its administration to confine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one department to encroach upon another. The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one and thus to create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism. A just estimate of that love of power and proneness to abuse it which predominates in the human heart is sufficient to satisfy us of the

truth of this position. The necessity of reciprocal checks in the exercise of political power, by dividing and distributing it into different depositories and constituting each the guardian of the public weal against invasions by the others, has been evinced by experiments ancient and modern, some of them in our country and under our own eyes. To preserve them must be as necessary as to institute them. If in the opinion of the people the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way which the Constitution designates. But let there be no change by usurpation; for though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed. The precedent must always greatly overbalance in permanent evil any partial or transient benefit which the use can at any time yield.

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths, which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

It is substantially true that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government. The rule indeed extends with more or less force to every species of free government. Who that is a sincere friend to it can look with indifference upon attempts to shake the foundation of the fabric?

Promote then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened.

As a very important source of strength and security, cherish public credit. One method of preserving it is to use it as sparingly as possible, avoiding occasions of expense by cultivating peace, but remembering also that timely disbursements to prepare for danger frequently prevent much greater disbursements to repel it; avoiding likewise the accumulation of debt, not only by shunning occasions of expense, but by vigorous exertions in time of peace to discharge the debts which unavoidable wars may have occasioned, not ungenerously throwing upon posterity the burden which we ourselves ought to bear. The execution of these maxims belongs to your representatives, but it is necessary that public opinion should cooperate. To facilitate to them the performance of their duty, it is essential that you should practically bear in mind that towards the payment of debts there must be revenue; that to have revenue there must be taxes; that no taxes can be devised which are not more or less inconvenient and unpleasant; that the intrinsic embarrassment inseparable from the selection of the proper objects (which is always a choice of difficulties) ought to be a decisive motive for a candid construction of the conduct of the government in making it, and for a spirit of acquiescence in the measures for obtaining revenue which the public exigencies may at any time dictate.

Observe good faith and justice towards all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all; religion and morality enjoin this conduct, and can it be that good policy does not equally enjoin it? It will be worthy of a free, enlightened, and, at no distant period, a great nation, to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence. Who can doubt that in the course of time and things the fruits of such a plan would richly repay any temporary advantages which might be lost by a steady adherence to it? Can it be, that Providence has not connected the permanent felicity of a nation with its virtue? The experiment, at least, is recommended by every sentiment which ennobles human nature. Alas! is it rendered impossible by its vices?

In the execution of such a plan nothing is more essential than that permanent, inveterate antipathies against particular nations and passionate attachments for others should be excluded and that in place of them just and amicable feelings towards all should be cultivated. The nation which indulges towards another an habitual hatred, or an habitual fondness, is in some degree a slave. It is a slave to its animosity or to its affection, either of which is sufficient to lead it astray from its duty and its interest. Antipathy in one nation against another disposes each more readily to offer insult and injury, to lay hold of slight causes of umbrage, and to be haughty and intractable when accidental or trifling occasions of dispute occur. Hence frequent collisions, obstinate, envenomed, and bloody contests. The nation, prompted by ill will and resentment, sometimes impels to war the government, contrary to the best calculations of policy. The government sometimes participates in the national propensity and adopts through passion what reason would reject; at other times, it makes the animosity of the nation subservient to projects of hostility instigated by pride, ambition and other sinister and pernicious motives. The peace often, sometimes perhaps the liberty, of nations has been the victim.

So likewise, a passionate attachment of one nation for another produces a variety of evils. Sympathy for the favorite nation, facilitating the illusion of an imaginary common interest in cases where no real common interest exists and infusing into one the enmities of the other, betrays the former into a participation in the quarrels and wars of the latter, without adequate inducement or justification. It leads also to concessions to the favorite nation of privileges denied to others, which is apt doubly to injure the nation making the concessions, by unnecessarily parting with what ought to have been retained and by exciting jealousy, ill will, and a disposition to retaliate in the parties from whom equal privileges are withheld. And it gives to ambitious, corrupted, or deluded citizens (who devote themselves to the favorite nation) facility to betray or sacrifice the interests of their own country without odium, sometimes even with popularity, gilding with the appearances of a virtuous sense of obligation, a commendable deference for public opinion, or a laudable zeal for public good, the base or foolish compliances of ambition, corruption, or infatuation.

As avenues to foreign influence in innumerable ways, such attachments are particularly alarming to the truly enlightened and independent patriot. How many opportunities do they afford to tamper with domestic factions, to practice the arts of seduction, to mislead public opinion, to influence or awe the public councils! Such an attachment of a small or weak towards a great and powerful nation dooms the former to be the satellite of the latter.

Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence (I conjure you to believe me, fellow citizens) the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake, since history and experience prove that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government. But that jealousy to be useful must be impartial; else it becomes the instrument of the very influence to be avoided, instead of a defense against it. Excessive partiality for one foreign nation and excessive dislike of another cause those whom they actuate to see danger only on one side, and serve to veil and even second the arts of influence on the other. Real patriots, who may resist the intrigues of the favorite, are liable to become suspected and odious, while its tools and dupes usurp the applause and confidence of the people to surrender their interests.

The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible. So far as we have already formed engagements, let them be fulfilled with perfect good faith. Here let us stop.

Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have none or a very

remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence therefore it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves, by artificial ties, in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships or enmities.

Our detached and distant situation invites and enables us to pursue a different course. If we remain one people under an efficient government, the period is not far off when we may defy material injury from external annoyance; when we may take such an attitude as will cause the neutrality we may at any time resolve upon to be scrupulously respected; when belligerent nations, under the impossibility of making acquisitions upon us, will not lightly hazard the giving us provocation; when we may choose peace or war, as our interest guided by justice shall counsel.

Why forgo the advantages of so peculiar a situation? Why quit our own to stand upon foreign ground? Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rival-ship, interest, humor, or caprice?

It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world—so far, I mean, as we are now at liberty to do it, for let me not be understood as capable of patronizing infidelity to existing engagements (I hold the maxim no less applicable to public than to private affairs, that honesty is always the best policy)—I repeat it therefore, let those engagements be observed in their genuine sense. But in my opinion it is unnecessary and would be unwise to extend them.

Taking care always to keep ourselves, by suitable establishments, on a respectably defensive posture, we may safely trust to temporary alliances for extraordinary emergencies.

Harmony, liberal intercourse with all nations, are recommended by policy, humanity, and interest. But even our commercial policy should hold an equal and impartial hand: neither seeking nor granting exclusive favors or preferences; consulting the natural course of things; diffusing and diversifying by gentle means the streams of commerce but forcing nothing; establishing with powers so disposed—in order to give to trade a stable course, to define the rights of our merchants, and to enable the government to support them—conventional rules of intercourse, the best that present circumstances and mutual opinion will permit, but temporary, and liable to be from time to time abandoned or varied, as experience and circumstances shall dictate; constantly keeping in view, that it is folly in one nation to look for disinterested favors from another—that it must pay with a portion of its independence for whatever it may accept under that character—that by such acceptance it may place itself in the condition of having given equivalents for nominal favors and yet of being reproached with ingratitude for not giving more. There can be no greater error than to expect or calculate upon real favors from nation to nation. It is an illusion which experience must cure, which a just pride ought to discard.

In offering to you, my countrymen, these counsels of an old and affectionate friend, I dare not hope they will make the strong and lasting impression I could wish—that they will control the usual current of the passions or prevent our nation from running the course which has hitherto marked the destiny of nations. But if I may even flatter myself that they may be productive of some partial benefit, some occasional good, that they may now and then recur to moderate the fury of party spirit, to warn against the mischiefs of foreign intrigue, to guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism—this hope will be a full recompense for the solicitude for your welfare by which they have been dictated.

How far in the discharge of my official duties I have been guided by the principles which have been delineated, the public records and other evidences of my conduct must witness to you and to the world. To myself, the assurance of my own conscience is that I have at least believed myself to be guided by them.

In relation to the still subsisting war in Europe, my proclamation of the 22d of April 1793 is the index to my plan. Sanctioned by your approving voice and by that of your representatives in both houses of Congress, the spirit of that measure has continually governed me, uninfluenced by any attempts to deter or divert me from it.

After deliberate examination with the aid of the best lights I could obtain, I was well satisfied that our country, under all the circumstances of the case, had a right to take—and was bound in duty and interest to take—a neutral position. Having taken it, I determined, as far as should depend upon me, to maintain it with moderation, perseverence, and firmness.

The considerations which respect the right to hold this conduct it is not necessary on this occasion to detail. I will only observe that, according to my understanding of the matter, that right, so far from being denied by any of the belligerent powers, has been virtually admitted by all.

The duty of holding a neutral conduct may be inferred, without anything more, from the obligation which justice and humanity impose on every nation, in cases in which it is free to act, to maintain inviolate the relations of peace and amity towards other nations.

The inducements of interest for observing that conduct will best be referred to your own reflections and experience. With me, a predominant motive has been to endeavor to gain time to our country to settle and mature its yet recent institutions and to progress without interruption to that degree of strength and consistency which is necessary to give it, humanly speaking, the command of its own fortunes.

Though in reviewing the incidents of my administration I am unconscious of intentional error, I am nevertheless too sensible of my defects not to think it probable that I may have committed many errors. Whatever they may be, I fervently beseech the Almighty to avert or mitigate the evils to which they may tend. I shall also carry with me the hope that my country will never cease to view them with indulgence and that, after forty-five years of my life dedicated to its service with an upright zeal, the faults of incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion, as myself must soon be to the mansions of rest.

Relying on its kindness in this as in other things, and actuated by that fervent love towards it which is so natural to a man who views in it the native soil of himself and his progenitors for several generations, I anticipate with pleasing expectation that retreat, in which I promise myself to realize without alloy the sweet enjoyment of partaking in the midst of my fellow citizens the benign influence of good laws under a free government—the ever favorite object of my heart, and the happy reward, as I trust, of our mutual cares, labors and dangers.

GEO. WASHINGTON.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5 o'clock today. At 5 o'clock the Senate will proceed to the nomination of Robert Bacharach, of Oklahoma, to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Tenth Circuit. At 5:30 we will vote on his nomination.

We expect to reconsider the cloture vote on the Hagel nomination to be Secretary of Defense tomorrow.

We also expect to consider the nomination of Jack Lew to be Treasury Secretary and the sequestration legislation before the end of the week.

SENATE AGENDA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate has a great deal to accomplish, including the long-delayed confirmation of former Senator Chuck Hagel to lead the Defense Department.

This week the Senate will also consider two plans to avert devastating across-the-board cuts to military spending as well as domestic initiatives that keep our American families and businesses strong. To give our economy a foundation for growth, Congress must replace these cuts—the so-called sequester—with a balanced approach to deficit reduction.

Democrats would temporarily replace this harsh austerity with a combination of smart spending reductions and measures that close corporate tax loopholes, end wasteful subsidies, and ask the wealthiest Americans to pay a little bit more, and it would avoid harmful cuts that will hurt American families, harm military readiness, and hinder our economic recovery. Families and businesses in every State of the Nation—in red States and blue States—are at risk because of these haphazard cuts.

In the Presiding Officer's home State of Virginia, 170 teachers who work with disabled children could lose their jobs. That doesn't count any other teachers. Thousands of children will go without lifesaving vaccines—they will go without lifesaving vaccines—and 90,000 Pentagon employees will be furloughed. It is easy to talk about furloughs unless you are one of those people being furloughed. We don't know how many days a week it will be, how many days a month it will be, but it will be days.

In Nevada 120 teachers could lose their jobs. Local law enforcement agencies will lose essential funding to prosecute crime, and thousands of Defense Department employees will be furloughed, losing wages that support their families and our State's economy.

Residents of the Republican leader's home State would also suffer. Kentucky will lose Federal funding that helps police catch and punish domestic abusers, buys meals for needy seniors and keeps at-risk children in Head Start programs, and more than 11,000 Kentuckians who work for the Defense Department will be furloughed.

Nationwide, sequester cuts will cost more than 750,000 jobs. More than 70,000 boys and girls will be kicked out of their Head Start programs. Meat inspectors, air traffic controllers, FBI officers, and Border Patrol agents will be furloughed. Small businesses, which create two-thirds of all new jobs in this country, will lose access to crucial Federal loans. Thousands of researchers working to cure cancer, diabetes, and scores of other life-threatening diseases will lose their jobs.

But Congress has the power to prevent these self-inflicted wounds. We have the power to turn off the sequester, protect American families and businesses, and ensure our national defense.

In the House and in the Senate, Republicans and Democrats voted to impose these cuts. It will take Republicans and Democrats working together to avert them. Twenty-eight Republicans in the Senate and 174 Republicans in the House voted to impose these painful cuts. To say this is President Obama's sequester is absolutely wrong: 174 Republicans in the House voted for these cuts—that is more than 70 percent—and in the Senate more than 60 percent of the Republicans voted for the sequester. So it is unfair to say it is the President's sequester. We did this together. This would not have passed but for the overwhelming vote of the Republicans in the House and in the Senate.

If those same Republicans would work with Democrats to find a balanced way to reduce the deficit, Congress could avert the delayed sequester today—now. Unfortunately, Republicans would rather let the deficit cuts go into effect than close a single wasteful tax loophole. They would rather cut Medicare, education, and medical research than ask a single millionaire to pay a single dollar more in taxes.

The overwhelming majority of Americans wants us to compromise before their neighbors, friends, and family members get pink slips or notices that they can only work a few days this week or this month.

The overwhelming majority of Americans—including 56 percent of Republicans—supports Democrats' balanced approach. It is all over the country. All over the country Americans favor this approach, a balanced approach, by a large margin, including 56 percent of Republicans.

So once again the only Republicans in the entire country rejecting a reasonable, balanced compromise are Republicans in this building—Republicans in Congress.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Has the Chair announced the business of the day?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. 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. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

IMMIGRATION

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, last week, about the time Congress recessed, the President's immigration plan was leaked to the press and was commented on generally. A group of Senators here have been trying to work on a comprehensive plan and expressed dismay at what it contained and said it was not acceptable.

A brief review of the enforcement section of the President's immigration plan confirms, I think, what my concern has been all along. It is a smoking gun, in truth, that demonstrates this President is not serious about enforcement. That is where we are. Any immigration plan this Nation implements has to be founded on the simple legal principle that people can come to our country in generous numbers, as they always have done, but they should wait their turn. There should be a lawful system. You can't have a lawful system if you are not prepared, not willing, and not committed to ensuring that the laws are enforced.

What we have seen for the last several years is very dramatic. In point after point, I, formerly a Federal prosecutor for almost 15 years, can tell you it effectively neutralized the ability of our current laws to be enforced.

This bill is confirmation the President hasn't had a change of heart. He hasn't had a change of heart. They are continuing to talk as if they expect and plan to establish a lawful system of immigration. When you get down to it and read the language of the legislation, it is not there.

Here are some examples of what the President thinks amounts to enforcement. This is so sad. I will say, with absolute confidence, if the President of the United States had done what he sort of said he was going to do in 2008 when he was running for office, he would make this legal system work. If he had invested time, effort, leadership, moral authority, and maybe a little more money—but it won't take a whole lot of money—and begin to show the kind of progress we need to have, show a commitment he would work to enforce the law in the future, he would be in a much better position to ask for a large reform of law.

Let's look at what his plan reveals. It explicitly, openly, and directly prohibits State and local governments from enforcing immigration laws and from even asking someone for their immigration status.

We have former Governors here in the Senate, former State police superintendents—and I have dealt with this issue for a very long time—that is a stunning development. There are only about maybe 20,000 Federal agents dealing with immigration. There are 600,000 State and local law enforcement officers, in every county, city, hamlet, and town in America who are the ones who come in contact every single day with people in their areas for drunkenness, fighting, burglaries, and drugs. When they find somebody in the course of doing their duties, they discover people who are here illegally.

We want to have a relationship with them and to utilize their capabilities. The Federal Government can then respond, identify the person, and see

what the truth is about their background. This eliminates that and steps backward from some of the progress we have slowly made, some at my insistence, over the last several years.

The proposal the President put forth eliminates the congressional requirement that the Department of Homeland Security put in place a biometric exit system for those who enter the country legally but overstay their visas. People come into the country on a visa and don't ever leave. Experts are telling us as many as 40 percent of the people who are here illegally today overstayed their visas. They need to clock in when they come in, but there is no clocking out. We have no real idea who came and overstayed their visas.

The President's plan eliminates a legal requirement that has been in place for approximately 17-plus years, which required a biometric exit system to clock out people when they come in. It is not hard to require them to pay a few dollars to purchase a card, and when you exit, it will be read like your credit card. You exit and you are clocked out. We have some control over that.

The proposal from the President restricts the ability of Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to obtain information regarding whether a person is illegally present in the United States. Think about this. It would prohibit Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies, particularly law enforcement agencies that need to know something about a person they may have come in contact with in the course of their public safety duties, to know whether they are legally in the country.

This means if a law enforcement agency is holding an illegal immigrant for a criminal offense not deemed serious enough—a criminal offense, but somebody in Washington and Homeland Security said is not serious enough—the law enforcement agency cannot contact Federal authorities.

This also means States with laws that require a determination of immigration status will no longer be able to use Federal databases to determine if a person is eligible for a driver's license, for example. You need to be able to turn somebody down for a driver's license if you can't check to see if they are lawfully in the country.

This is something I have worked hard on over the years, for a decade. It puts the final nail in the coffin of the 287(g) Program. That program states that State and local law enforcement officers are no longer allowed to function as immigration officers.

We had a program the Federal Government did not want, really, the politicians did not want to see happen. The law enforcement officers wanted it, and this was a program which would allow Federal immigration officials to train State and local law officers—some of them at the prisons, some of them in State offices, some of them in regional offices—how to deal with people who are in the country illegally.

The average 19-year-old police officer in Middleburg, VA, or in Monroeville, AL, may arrest a mayor for fraud or assault, but needs to take 2 weeks of training before he can be certified to arrest somebody illegally in the country, not even a citizen. This is the way it is working in the real world. It had some beneficial aspects. It is something I supported and thought we should expand nationwide.

There are highly trained people within State law enforcement, officers who are trying to cooperate with the Federal agents to try to create a system that will actually work. The President's plan would apparently eliminate that.

The President's plan would allow private individuals to hire border patrol agents to protect them and their property, when it is the federal government should be fulfilling its duty to protect them itself.

Is this a capitulation? You have a situation in which you are being basically invaded, the sovereign territory of the United States. It is not just a private individual's farm, ranch, property, it is U.S. territory. It should be protected from those unlawfully able to go there. They shouldn't have to hire their own police officers.

It includes a feel-good measure such as giving illegal immigrants free legal representation and creating border community liaison officers, in part to receive complaints about Border Patrol agents.

It allows the Attorney General to cancel deportation of criminal aliens convicted of aggravated felonies if they do not serve a sentence of 5 or more years. The law says if you are convicted of offenses and you are apprehended here illegally, you should be deported. It states this is only for serious offenses and you received time in jail, Federal felony offenses.

The President's plan goes even farther than that. It says to the Attorney General, if they served less than 5 years, he may waive that and not follow the law and deport people who violated the law. It gives the Attorney General authority to waive other legal requirements as well.

The Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security is directed to provide appropriate training to agents enforcing laws and goes into a great deal of training of civil rights and that sort of thing that is required.

There is no mention of interior enforcement. There are no measures to secure our borders.

As I have stated, I have just begun to review this plan. What I have read causes me great concern and confirms the suspicions I have had all along, which means when this legislation goes from some sort of outline that sounds good in theory, the actual legislation is not going to be what it is promised to be. Why did I say that? Because it happened in 2006 and 2007.

The bill did not fulfill the promises their sponsors made of it when it was carefully examined. When we saw that, the American people spoke out, and it went away.

If you don't have a lawful system that effectively requires enforcement of the law, you are not serious about protecting people in this country from illegal workers who would take their jobs and have the net effect of pulling down their wages.

We already have the problem that the President is suing States that want to help the Federal Government enforce their laws. He has had his own United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents sue him, the Director of ICE, and the Secretary of Homeland Security for blocking them from being able to do their legal duty to enforce the law. That is going forward. They voted unanimously no confidence in Mr. Morton, the head of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency. And there are a lot of other problems.

I want to say, in sum, we have just begun to review the President's leaked plan and there are massive holes in it. It reveals a continued agenda to simply not allow a lawful system of immigration to be established in America and, therefore, it is unacceptable. I believe and am afraid that same mentality will impact the negotiations. We will end up, no matter how hard people try, with an inability to reach an agreement on a kind of plan that will actually work.

What needs to happen is we need to continue our generous, historic affirmation of immigration where we welcome people to our country in numbers that are very large, but we believe people should come lawfully. People who aren't entitled to come should not be allowed to enter. The people who come here should serve the national interest, not some group's special interests. If we do that, we could be proud of that system. I am so deeply disappointed that the President fails to meet those qualifications.

I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

BACHARACH NOMINATION

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of the nomination of Magistrate Judge Robert Bacharach of Edmond, OK, to be the next judge on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Bacharach is well-qualified for this position and has received widespread support and accolades from across the State of Oklahoma, including members of academia and members of both the Oklahoma and Federal Bar Associations. In fact, last year, the Oklahoma Bar Association passed a resolution praising Judge Bacharach's legal abilities and supporting his confirmation.

This broad array of support is indicative of his exceptional legal background. Judge Bacharach received his B.A., with high honors, from the University of Oklahoma in 1981 and his J.D. from Washington University School of Law in 1985. Judge Bacharach began his legal career as a law clerk for fellow Oklahoman, Chief Judge William J. Holloway, Jr., on the Tenth Circuit; thus, he is already quite familiar with those chambers. Following his two-year clerkship, he joined the outstanding Oklahoma-based law firm Crowe & Dunlevy, becoming a shareholder in 1994. After 12 years of private practice, he was appointed by the judges of his district court as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma where he currently presides. In addition to serving as a magistrate judge, Judge Bacharach also served as an adjunct professor at the University of Oklahoma School of Law and received a number of outstanding awards and recognition for his years of scholarship and service.

In addition to his clear legal qualifications, even more important to my decision to support Judge Bacharach's nomination are the strong testimonies to his integrity and commitment to service outside of his judicial role. He is currently the Vice President of the Federal Bar Association (FBA) for the Tenth Circuit and formerly served the Oklahoma City Chapter of the FBA as President, Vice President, and a member of the Board of Directors.

Furthermore, Judge Bacharach serves the Oklahoma legal community beyond his professional capacity. One of his primary areas of service to his colleagues is through his involvement with the Oklahoma Bar Association's Lawyers Helping Lawyers Committee, which helps attorneys who are experiencing personal problems such as depression, alcoholism, and drug dependency. He has served on the committee for three years and also joined the Board of Directors of the Lawyers Helping Lawyers Foundation. Judge Bacharach serves Oklahoma outside of the legal profession as the Director and Executive Committee Member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Oklahoma City and on the Board of Trustees of the Temple B'nai Israel.

I believe Judge Bacharach will uphold the highest standards and reflect the best in the American judicial tradition by joining the Tenth Circuit as a distinguished and respected member of the Oklahoma legal community. The Judiciary Committee received many letters of support for Judge Bacharach's nomination, including recommendations from judges, deans and professors from Oklahoma law schools, several bar associations, and attorneys from Judge Bacharach's former law firm, Crowe & Dunlevy.

Equally important to Judge Bacharach's qualifications is his judicial philosophy. I believe his record and his hearing testimony demonstrate that he respects the limited role our founders intended judges and the federal government to play in our constitutional democracy.

Based on all of these factors, I believe Judge Bacharach will be an excellent addition to the Tenth Circuit, and I urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

I offer my congratulations to Judge Bacharach and his family on this momentous occasion of his confirmation and wish him well in his new endeavor.

Judge Bacharach's nomination got caught up in the political shenanigans the majority leader and the chairman of the Judiciary Committee carried out at the end of the last Congress. Never before has a circuit court nominee come to the floor without notification of the very members of the Judiciary Committee who sponsored their nomination in the committee. So it was purely a political trick. And for that I think the Senate owes Judge Bacharach an apology for the delay. I have no doubt he will be confirmed, and I doubt there will be anybody who will vote against him.

That leads me to two other comments I wish to make. I have sat on the Judiciary Committee for four Supreme Court nominees, and so what I am about to say may strike some people as hyperbole, but it is not. The four Supreme Court nominees who appeared while I sat on the Judiciary Committee displayed great qualities, and what I am about to say doesn't diminish their characteristics or qualities at all, but I must say that Judge Bacharach has the two qualities that are at such a high level that we should want each and every judge who sits on our Federal bench to have them.

The first is personal integrity. Now, those words are used a lot in our country, but this man has demonstrated it with his life, with his commitments to other people, his commitment to helping other people, with the way he spends his time, with his commitment to his family and to his faith. You cannot find a blemish on this man in terms of his personal integrity, and very rarely can we say that about anybody. He is actually a stellar individual, exactly the type of individual our Founders had in mind, someone who has the kind of personal life that exemplifies the characteristics and qualities that built this country, a love for the law, and an understanding that the rule of law is the glue that holds our society together.

That leads me to the second quality. I have interviewed a lot of candidates for the Supreme Court and for judgeships and circuit court positions, and I have never met anybody who knows the Constitution, its limitations, and its intent better than Judge Bacharach. I think he quite assuredly impressed every member of the Judiciary Committee with his knowledge, his insight, and his background.

So Judge Bacharach brings together the two qualities that are so important and represent the upper end of all the candidates I have seen in my 9 years in the Senate of those whom we would ask to fulfill some of the most important positions in our country and in our society.

I believe Judge Bacharach is the first judge I will have voted for whom I have no doubt of his absolute fidelity to the U.S. Constitution. So I sleep well at night. I wish we had 100 Judge Bacharachs—100—to put on the bench today. I don't believe he can be influenced by anything other than stare decisis, precedence, and the U.S. Constitution and the statutes. His personal life gives reflection and insight into how he is going to be a judge, how he will carry himself, how he will act in this position of power. When you meet him, what you find is one of the humblest of men with one of the greatest intellects I have ever known in my life.

So I will just say that I fully support his nomination. I congratulate him because I know he is going to be approved, and I say, Mr. President, bring us more Robert Bacharachs.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THE LONG-TERM DEBT REDUCTION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it has been 1,398 days since the Senate passed a budget. People wonder why we are lurching from one budget crisis to another one in Washington. The fact is this is not the only deadline that has been missed. This year the President failed to submit, by February 4, his proposed budget. But the truth is even last year when he submitted a budget, and it was voted on by the entire Senate, it received zero votes. In other words, it was not viewed as a reasonable and practical solution to the financial crisis that faces our country with $16.5 trillion in debt and 40 cents out of every dollar being spent by the Federal Government being borrowed from our creditors.

Even before we reach the upcoming crisis which is known as the budget sequester—and I suggest most Americans would not consider a 2.4-percent cut in spending to be a crisis, but even before we reach this next stage in the budget negotiations, we know President Obama has proposed the same old solution to every budgetary question; that is, to raise taxes even though on December 31, with the fiscal cliff negotiations, we saw the President get his pound of flesh when it came to spending, and that is $600 billion in additional revenue.

But this does, indeed, seem like the Washington version of Groundhog Day.

We know the President has rejected his own bipartisan fiscal commission's recommendations, the so-called Simpson-Bowles Commission recommendation, and he has rejected budget proposals put forward by the House of Representatives. Even though our gross national debt has gone up by nearly $6 trillion under his watch, and even though it is projected to go up another $9.5 trillion over the next decade, the President seems to be stuck on telling us it is only going to take a little bit more in taxes in order to solve the problem.

The American people understand we do not have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem—spending money we do not have—and the only way to reduce our long-term debt burden is through reining in that spending. And not just the 39 percent of it which represents discretionary spending; we need to reform our entitlement programs, Medicare and Social Security, in order to preserve and to protect those programs for future generations. Yet when we try to enact spending cuts or entitlement reforms, the President, unfortunately, has resorted to shameless fear mongering.

He is now warning that it will be the end of western civilization, or something like it, if we cut the Federal budget by 2.4 percent. When we consider that Federal spending has gone up over 19 percent since 2008, and when we consider how much inefficient and duplicative and downright wasteful spending there is in the Federal Government, it is hard to take this argument seriously.

For example, no one should be talking about raising more taxes from the American people on top of the $600 billion that was extracted as a result of the fiscal cliff negotiations. No one should be talking about raising more taxes when the Federal Government made more than $220 billion in improper payments over the last 2 years—that's right, $220 billion in improper payments in the last 2 years—and this is just one example of costly government waste.

The President does not appear to believe in the urgency of the moment. He does not appear to believe that our country is headed for a true crisis. We all know interest rates are at historically low levels at this time. If interest rates were to go up just 1 percent or 2 percent more, for each percentage increase it would represent more than $1 trillion in additional interest we would have to pay on our debt. It is easy to see if interest rates were to go back up to historic norms, 4 or 5 percent, that very quickly we would lose control of our financial system, and we would be able to do little more than pay interest on the debt and pay for Medicare and Social Security.

Both Senate Republicans and Democrats have shown that they understand the nature of the crisis we have before us, but we believe it is imperative that we support a budget that reduces our long-term debt.

The only way we can see a significant path forward to debt reduction is if the President joins us in these important negotiations. Unfortunately, so far, the President seems truly allergic to genuine bipartisan compromise.

Until the Obama administration, virtually every landmark domestic policy change in American history was achieved with bipartisan support. We all understand that; it cannot happen any other way. For example, both the 1935 Social Security Act and the 1964 Civil Rights Act were signed by a Democratic President and supported by large majorities of Senate Republicans. The 1996 Welfare Reform Act signed by President Clinton was backed by every single Member of the Republican Senate caucus, along with the majority of Senate Democrats.

Likewise, during the Reagan years, most Senate Democrats voted for the 1983 Social Security amendments, and a whopping 94 percent of Senate Democrats voted for the 1986 Tax Reform Act. Under President George W. Bush 84 percent of Senate Democrats voted for No Child Left Behind.

In other words, Presidents have traditionally understood that reform and results take leadership and only then will bipartisan support follow. Yet the President seems to neglect this obvious fact and instead prefers to continue what seems like a perpetual campaign and knock down straw men rather than actually doing something about our skyrocketing debt.

Real debt reduction will require Presidential leadership, the kind of leadership that President Clinton displayed in 1993 when he convinced 47 percent of Senate Democrats and 40 percent of House Democrats to defy organized labor and support the North American Free Trade Agreement. Since then, U.S. trade with Canada has nearly tripled, and U.S. trade with Mexico has increased almost sixfold.

My hope is that the President will ultimately show the kind of leadership we have seen throughout this Nation's history when we are confronted with big challenges. He has acknowledged the need for serious reform.

I believe he understands the problem perfectly: We cannot preserve and protect Social Security and Medicare unless we deal with those programs now. Yet he has never acted on his words, instead choosing to engage in the perpetual campaign.

As a result, Washington keeps spending money it doesn't have and saddling our children with more debt. Meanwhile our safety-net programs are spiraling toward a collapse that will leave the poor and elderly even more vulnerable. It is time for a change, and it is time for the President to take his rhetoric about debt reduction and turn it into real meaningful reform.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from Pennsylvania.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, as I have every year since I came to the Senate, I rise to commemorate Black History Month. This year, we are privileged to recognize Bill Strickland, a man whose approach is unique and whose accomplishments are of great consequence to African-Americans, and in fact, to all Americans. From the age of 19, Bill Strickland has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of those living in poverty, to give them a setting they can thrive in and a future they can take pride in.

Bill grew up in the Manchester neighborhood of Pittsburgh, on the city's north side. Prior to the decline of industry in the city in the mid–1960s, Manchester was a solid, working class community. But by the time Bill was in high school, the area around him had slid into urban decay and instability. Though surrounded by poverty, Bill's mother was determined to provide a safe environment for her family. And though she didn't have a high school diploma herself, Bill's mother held firm to the belief that a good education was the ticket to a better life. At Oliver High School, when he began his senior year Bill had neither plans for after graduation or a clear picture of what his future might look like.

Then one day while walking down the hallway at school, Bill was attracted by the smell of fresh coffee. The coffee, along with the sounds of jazz, led Bill to the art room in Oliver High where he watched a pot being formed from a mound of clay on a turntable. Seated at the potter's wheel was Frank Ross, Oliver High's art teacher who would become Bill's close friend and mentor. Over the next year, in the calm atmosphere of Frank's well-lit art studio, Bill would develop a talent for ceramics. As importantly, it provided a safe and stable sanctuary from the chaos of the streets. At the potter's wheel Bill found his passion, and although he didn't know it yet, he was also forming the beginning of a vision that would become Manchester Bidwell Corporation.

In 1967, Bill graduated from Oliver High School and, at the instance of Frank Ross, applied to the University of Pittsburgh where he was accepted, but only as a probationary student. Although he had begun his studies full-time, Bill never lost the connection with his neighborhood. In the summer of 1968, as Manchester grappled with the racial tensions that swept many inner cities, Bill decided to open an arts center in his neighborhood. He had seen the power a bright, orderly, safe place like Frank Ross' studio and the artistic work done there had had on his own life. He wanted to give the young people of Manchester a place where they too could escape the effects of economic and social devastation and experience something beautiful. A conversation with a young minister working in the area led Bill to his first $25,000 in funding and the Manchester

Craftsmen's Guild was born as an after-school art program in a donated row house on Buena Vista Street. It was not an overnight success, but Bill never gave up. When young people in the neighborhood weren't immediately taken with ceramics, Bill redoubled his efforts, hitting the streets to reach out to as many people as possible and bring them to his center. People noticed Bill's efforts and the popularity of the Guild grew. As more people came to the center, the center needed more clay, more wheels, and Bill needed to secure more funding.

Along the way, an interesting phenomenon occurred. Teachers began noticing that their students who regularly went to the Guild were doing better academically and behaving better in school. Without intending to, Bill had stumbled across a simple, yet empowering, philosophy—environment shapes people's lives. By providing a safe space for the Manchester youth, and by introducing them to the beauty of the arts, Bill was simultaneously inspiring a large-scale change in his community.

Despite starting as a probationary student, Bill graduated from Pitt cum laude with a BA in History in 1970. Bill continued to work with the Manchester Craftmen's Guild and a few years after graduation, he became director of the Bidwell Training Center, a school whose mission was to provide education in the building trades disadvantaged and dislocated workers. When Bill assumed his role as head of Bidwell, what he discovered was a dilapidated warehouse in a seedy parking lot and a $300,000 back tax bill from the IRS. But Bill saw its potential and didn't give up. Bill began to transform Bidwell into a forward-thinking school that offered its students a real chance to dramatically improve their lives. He realized that the changing job market required less focus on construction trades and redirected Bidwell's focus to the hightech and medical industries. He also forged important partnerships with corporations like IBM, Heinz) and Bayer to design curriculums that would train the workers that employers needed. While he worked to improve the staff and the quality of the education, the nature of Bidwell's funding meant that Bill could not address what he saw as one of the institutions central flaws: The building. With funding for social projects harder to come by in the 1980s, Bill was forced to layoff nearly one-third of his staff just to make payroll. But despite the set-back, in his own eyes, Bill's vision was clearer than ever. Bill realized that what he needed to make Bidwell succeed was a center of which students, faculty, and neighbors could be proud.

To achieve his dream, Bill contacted legendary Pittsburgh architect Tasso Kastelas, a student of Frank Lloyd Wright, to design a world class center in one of the worst neighborhoods in Pittsburgh. For $10,000, Bill commissioned the architect to build a model of what would later become the home of the Manchester Bidwell Corporation, as the combined programs of the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild and the Bidwell Training Center would come to be known. Bill had a vision for his building and the conviction that the future of his cause lay in its construction. Just as he had done before, Bill took it upon himself to turn his dream into a reality and spearheaded a $6.5 million capital campaign. Model in hand, he implored the Pittsburgh corporate community to help fund his dream. When the city's corporate donors, who had supported him previously, told him that Manchester didn't need such a spectacular center, he told them in no uncertain terms that it did. When he was told he needed matching funds to obtain his corporate pledges, he turned to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for additional support.

In 1986 the new 62,000 square foot arts and career training center opened. Originally the center consisted of studios as well as classrooms, workshops, gallery spaces, and a 350-seat auditorium. Over the years the building has expanded as Bill's vision expanded. In 1987 the jazz hall, which has seen performances from the likes of Dizzy Gillespie and Nancy Wilson, was added and in 2003 the 40,000 square foot state-of-the-art greenhouse opened. The center currently provides training in fields as varied as gourmet food preparation, chemical, office, and medical technologies, and education arts programming in ceramics, design arts, digital arts, and photography.

Bill's center and his students success stories are a testament to the power of social entrepreneurship. What began as a mission to provide an escape from the ghetto has produced unparalleled results in educational empowerment and community growth. Manchester Craftsmen's Guild ''Youth in Arts'' is a program that strives to educate and inspire urban young people through the arts. Ninety-three of the high school students who participate in the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild ''Youth in Arts'' program graduate from high school, a noticeable improvement over the national graduation rate of 75.5 percent. The Bidwell Training Center has changed lives by providing market-driven career training to disadvantaged adults in transition. Its training programs continue to place skilled technicians in middle-class jobs at companies such as Bayer, Mylan Labs, and Heinz. MCG Jazz, Manchester-Bidwell's record label, has been nominated for seven Grammy awards and has brought four home to Pittsburgh. The orchids grown in the facility's greenhouse have won Best in Show at a Western Pennsylvania orchid fair and are even available for purchase at Whole Foods. And while they are learning medical coding or how to center clay, each student is fed a gourmet lunch prepared by culinary students in the center's top-of-the-line kitchen.

Realizing the opportunity to strengthen other communities and effect change on an even larger scale by using the Manchester Bidwell model of community and educational development as a template, Bill helped found the National Center for Arts and Technology to replicate the Manchester Bidwell education model across the nation. NCAT collaborates with local nonprofits and businesses to assess their community's needs and then works together with the community to design a fitting center for arts and technology. Bill's Pittsburgh model has been replicated in San Francisco, Cincinnati, Cleveland, New Haven, Connecticut and Grand Rapids, MI. He gained some powerful backers including Jeff Skoll, founder of eBay and the Skoll Foundation. The Skoll Foundation was one of Bill's earlier investors; it recognized the potential of his programs to drive large scale positive social change by using entrepreneurial discipline and methods. With the Skoll Foundation's help, Bill clarified his sales pitch—that he could help solve problems faced in communities, had a strategic business plan showing the benefits of working together, and offering people meaning and hope through transforming experiences.

Bill has said that ''environment determines behavior'' and he has created a remarkable environment where men and women living in poverty are treated with dignity and respect. Knowing firsthand that poverty creates self-defeating assumptions and restrictive labels but does not define a person's potential, Bill has dedicated his life to changing the lives of others by offering them hope, meaning, and belief in the power of their own creative possibilities. Bill's methods might be unconventional, but his results are success stories of epic proportions. And so in the Senate today we express our gratitude to Bill for never giving up on the poor kids or his vision. His passion and his belief in the abilities of each and every individual that walks through his doors has touched lives far beyond Manchester and, thanks to his tireless efforts, truly has the potential to reach around the world.

I thank Bill Strickland for his contribution to the City of Pittsburgh, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and our Nation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF ROBERT E. BACHARACH TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT

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

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Robert E. Bacharach, of Oklahoma, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. This week, the country is facing indiscriminate across-the-board cuts from sequestration if Congress does not come to an agreement. The automatic cuts that will otherwise occur are in the tens of billions of dollars at a time when our economy is finally recovering but remains fragile. Among those who will have to endure these cuts are the overburdened Federal courts that are already suffering from longstanding vacancies that number almost 90. Budgetary cuts will mean more difficulty for the American people to get speedy justice from our Federal justice system.

According to the sequestration report released by the Office of Management and Budget, the sequestration would lead to a $555 million reduction for our Federal courts. Despite their higher caseloads and the needs of the American people, the courts' funding will be capped at a level last utilized 6 years ago. This could result in elimination of nearly one third of the courts' staff, as many as 6,300 employees, or month-long furloughs system wide. The sequester will result in cuts that will force courts to hear fewer cases and hear them more slowly. Court proceedings will be delayed. Some 30,000 civil cases have already been pending for more than 3 years and this will only exacerbate the problems of delay. Sequestration cuts could even result in the suspension of civil jury trials in some courts. And consider that if probation and pretrial services offices are affected, that can mean that defendants in pretrial release and those convicted but not in prison may not be properly supervised.

Sequestration is bad for the courts, bad for the economy and bad for the American people.

Today, after an unprecedented filibuster, Senate Republicans will finally allow a vote on the nomination of Robert Bacharach to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Judge Bacharach should be a consensus nominee. He received the ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary's highest possible rating of well qualified. He was reported by the Judiciary Committee by voice vote last year and, again, this year. Despite his experience, qualifications and bipartisan support, he was filibustered by Senate Republicans since July last year.

The filibuster of his nomination, which was supported by the Oklahoma Senators who had previously supported the nomination and who will likely reverse themselves again and support confirmation today, was the ne plus ultra of an unprecedented campaign of obstruction Senate Republicans have waged against President Obama's judicial nominees. That obstruction has spread to executive nominees, as well, including the nomination of Chuck Hagel, a recent Republican Senator from Nebraska whose nomination to serve as Secretary of Defense was filibustered earlier this month.

Judge Bacharach is the kind of nominee who every Senator should support. Over his 13-year career as a U.S. Magistrate Judge in the Western District of Oklahoma, he has handled nearly 3,000 civil and criminal matters, presided over 400 judicial settlement conferences, and issued more than 1,600 reports and recommendations. As an attorney in private practice, he tried 10 cases to verdict, argued two cases before the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, and briefed scores of other cases to the Tenth Circuit and the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

Judge Bacharach's judicial colleagues in the Western District of Oklahoma stand strongly behind his nomination. Vicki Miles-LaGrange, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, has said of Judge Bacharach:

> He is an outstanding jurist and my colleagues and I enthusiastically and wholeheartedly recommend him for the Tenth Circuit position. . . . We knew that we were lucky to have Bob as a Magistrate Judge, and he's been remarkable in this position for over 12 years. He is an absolutely great Magistrate Judge. His research and writing are excellent, his temperament is superb, his preparation is top-notch, and he is a wonderful colleague to all of the judges and in general to the entire court family. . . . All of the other judges and I—Republicans and Democrats alike—enthusiastically and wholeheartedly recommend Judge Bob Bacharach for the Tenth Circuit position. All of us believe very strongly that Judge Bacharach would be a superb choice for the position.

Throughout the careful and deliberate process in which Judge Bacharach has been thoroughly vetted, considered, and voted on by the Judiciary Committee, I have not heard a single negative word about him. There is no Senator who opposed his nomination on the merits. He was praised extensively by his home State Senators. Senator INHOFE has said of him:

> I believe Judge Bacharach would continue the strong service Oklahomans have provided the Tenth Circuit. Throughout his career and education, he's distinguished himself. In 2007, the Oklahoma City Journal Record profiled Judge Bacharach as an example of leadership in law, where he simply stated that as a future goal he intends to improve. Always working to improve has defined Judge Bacharach. . . . [H]is colleagues have characterized his service as remarkable, demonstrating superb judicial temperament, and a real asset to the Western District court family and legal community.

Senator COBURN said:

> Judge Bacharach is well qualified for this position and has received widespread praise and hearty recommendations from Oklahomans, including members of academia and fellow members of the bar. . . . I believe that Judge Bacharach will uphold the highest standards and reflect the best in our American judicial tradition by coming to the bench as a well-regarded member of the community. At a time when our country seems as divided as ever, it is important that citizens respect members of the judiciary and are confident they will faithfully and impartially apply the law. . . . I believe Judge Bacharach would be an excellent addition to the Tenth Circuit.

Unfortunately, along with 42 other Senate Republicans, Senator INHOFE and Senator COBURN filibustered Judge Bacharach since last July. The people of Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming have been needlessly denied his service as a Tenth Circuit judge for 7 months. Republican Senators in Oklahoma, Kansas, Utah and Wyoming could have prevented the filibuster but went along with the obstruction that served no good purpose and established another damaging precedent: Judge Bacharach is the first circuit court nominee to be filibustered who had received bipartisan support before the Judiciary Committee. Senator COBURN was quoted last year admitting: ''There's no reason why he shouldn't be confirmed.'' There was none other than the obstruction of Senate Republicans.

Their partisan obstruction was wrong, and it is damaging to our Nation's courts and the American people. The nonpartisan Congressional Research Service has reported that the median time circuit nominees have had to wait before a Senate vote has skyrocketed from 18 days for President Bush's nominees to 132 days for President Obama's. This is the result of Republicans' partisan obstruction.

This obstruction has contributed to the damagingly high level of judicial vacancies that has persisted for over 4 years. Persistent vacancies force fewer judges to take on growing caseloads, and make it harder for Americans to have access to speedy justice. While Senate Republicans delayed and obstructed, the number of judicial vacancies remained historically high and it has become more difficult for our courts to provide speedy, quality justice for the American people. There are today 89 judicial vacancies across the country. By way of contrast, that is more than double the number of vacancies that existed at this point in the Bush administration. The circuit and district judges that we have been able to confirm over the last four years fall more than 30 short of the total for President Bush's first term.

Over the last 4 years, Senate Republicans have chosen to depart dramatically from Senate traditions in their

efforts to delay and obstruct President Obama's judicial nominations. Until 2009, Senators who filibustered circuit court nominees generally had reasons to do so, and were willing to explain those reasons. When Senate Democrats filibustered President Bush's most extreme circuit court nominees, it was over substantive concerns about the nominees' records and Republicans' disregard for the rights of Democratic Senators as they unfairly short-circuited the process of consideration over and over again. On the other hand, Senate Republicans have filibustered and delayed nearly all of President Obama's circuit court nominees even when those nominees have the support of their Republican home state Senators and their rights have been fully protected in a fair consideration process.

Until 2009, when a judicial nominee had been reported by the Judiciary Committee with bipartisan support, they were generally confirmed quickly. Until 2009, we observed regular order, usually confirmed nominees promptly, and we cleared the Senate Executive Calendar before long recesses. Until 2009, if a nominee was filibustered, it was almost always because of a substantive issue with the nominee's record. We know what has happened since 2009. The average district court nominee is stalled 4.3 times longer and the average circuit court nominee is stalled 7.3 times as long as it took to confirm them during the Bush administration. No other President's judicial nominees had to wait an average of over 100 days for a Senate vote after being reported by the Judiciary Committee.

Senate Republicans have also forced the Majority Leader to file cloture on 30 nominees, which is already in 4 years 50 percent more nominees than had cloture filed during President Bush's eight years in office. Almost all of these 30 nominations were noncontroversial and were ultimately confirmed overwhelmingly. Fewer than 80 percent of President Obama's judicial nominees have been confirmed compared to almost 90 percent of President George W. Bush's nominees at this point in their Presidencies.

The record is clear: Senate Republicans have engaged in an unprecedented effort to obstruct President Obama's judicial nominations. Chief Justice Roberts, in his year-end Report on the Federal Judiciary in 2010 pointed to the ''[P]ersistent problem [that] has developed in the process of filling judicial vacancies . . . This has created acute difficulties for some judicial districts. Sitting judges in those districts have been burdened with extraordinary caseloads . . . There remains, however, an urgent need for the political branches to find a long-term solution to this recurring problem.'' Despite bipartisan calls to address longstanding judicial vacancies, Senate Republicans have continued their unwarranted obstruction of judicial confirmations. In the case of Judge Bacharach, there was not even a pretense of any substantive concern—Senate Republicans just decided to shut down the confirmation process and contorted the ''Thurmond rule.''

At a time when judicial vacancies have again risen to almost 90, we must do more for our overburdened courts. It is past time for the partisan obstruction to end. We have a long way to go. After 4 years of delay and obstruction, we remain far behind the pace of confirmations we set during President Bush's administration, and there remain far too many judicial vacancies that make it harder for Americans to have their day in court. During President Bush's entire second term, the 4 years from 2004 through 2008, vacancies never exceeded 60. Since President Obama's first full month in office, and as far into the future as we can see, there have never been fewer than 60 vacancies, and for much of that time many, many more. The Senate must do much more to fill these vacancies and make real progress.

The Senate today will finally vote on the nomination of Robert Bacharach. He has served as a U.S. Magistrate Judge on the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma since 1999. Previously, from 1987 to 1999, he was in private practice at the Oklahoma City law firm of Crowe & Dunlevy, P.C. From 1985 to 1987, he served as a law clerk to Judge William J. Holloway, Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, the same court to which he has been nominated. Judge Bacharach was twice reported by the Judiciary Committee by voice vote—last June and again this month.

The Judiciary Committee has been working to vet, consider, and report nominees, and just before the recess we reported another dozen circuit and district nominees, all of whom had to be renominated from last year. The longest pending of these nominations is that of Caitlin Halligan, who the President first nominated to the D.C. Circuit back in 2010. At that time, there were already two vacancies on that court, a number which has now doubled to four. The purported justification for the partisan Republican filibuster of the Halligan nomination was that the circuit did not need another judge. The circuit is now more than one-third vacant and needs several, including Caitlin Halligan. I urge that the Senate act quickly on long-pending nominations. Further delay does not serve the interests of the American people. Hardworking Americans deserve better.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Robert E. Bacharach, nominated to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit. Mr. Bacharach's nomination was pending before the Senate last year. In accordance with Senate custom and practice, the nomination was placed on hold, along with other circuit judge nominations, pending the outcome of the 2012 Presidential election. Unfortunately, the nomination was subjected to some unnecessary political theater when a cloture motion was filed and defeated last July.

It is well-known that the practice and tradition of the Senate is to stop confirming circuit judge nominees in the closing months of a Presidential election year. One has to go back 20 years to find a Presidential election year when the Senate approved a circuit court judge in the latter part of the year. Of course, the rationale has been that whoever wins that election should be the one to pick these lifetime nominees who will run our judiciary system.

A Congressional Research Service report on this subject stated:

> The Senator who most frequently has asserted the existence of a Thurmond rule has been the current chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

The CRS report noted that on March 7, 2008, the chairman recalled:

> When President Reagan was running for President and Senator Thurmond, then in the Republican minority as ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, instituted a policy to stall President Carter's nominations. That policy, known as the ''Thurmond Rule,'' was put in when the Republicans were in the minority. It is a rule that we still follow, and it will take effect very soon here.

Again, this was in March of that Presidential election year, not June or July. So that rule was very carefully laid out March 7, 2008—that they didn't intend to approve any more nominees after that point.

CRS went on to note the strong support the majority leader has expressed for the so-called Thurmond rule. According to CRS:

> Senator Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader, has expressed agreement with Senator Leahy about the existence of a Thurmond rule. In April 10, 2008, floor remarks, Senator Reid said, In a Presidential election year, it is always very tough for judges. That is the way it has been for a long time, and that is why we have the Thurmond rule and other such rules.

Five days later, the Majority Leader said:

> You know, there is a Thurmond doctrine that says: After June, we will have to take a real close look at judges in a Presidential election year.

These quotes indicate not only the expectation, but in fact a support for slowing down and cutting off the confirmation of judges in a Presidential election year.

Even setting aside the so-called Leahy-Thurmond rule, by any objective measure, President Obama has been treated fairly.

For example, with regard to the total number of confirmations, we confirmed 171 district and circuit nominations during President Obama's first term. We also confirmed two Supreme Court nominations during President Obama's first term. When Supreme Court nominations are pending in the committee, all other work on nominations is put on hold.

The last time the Senate confirmed two Supreme Court nominees was during President Bush's second term, and during that term the Senate confirmed a total of only 119 district and circuit court nominees.

Let me put it another way. Under similar circumstances when Supreme Court nominees were considered—the Senate confirmed 52 more district and circuit nominees for President Obama than for President Bush.

During the 2008 Presidential election year, the Senate confirmed a total of 28 judges—24 district and 4 circuit. During the 2012 Presidential election year the Senate greatly exceeded those numbers, having confirmed a total of 49 judges—44 district and 5 circuit. In fact, President Obama's confirmations during the 2012 election year exceed the previous five Presidential election years.

Furthermore, President Obama has the highest percentage of circuit confirmations over the past four Presidential terms. With regard to district confirmations, President Obama had more during the 112th Congress that in any of the previous eight Congresses, going back to 1994.

So those who say that this President is being treated differently either fail to recognize history or want to ignore the facts, or both.

With regard to today's nomination, I would like to say a few words about the nominee. I expect he will be approved and congratulate him on his confirmation.

Judge Bacharach graduated from University of Oklahoma with a B.A. in 1981 and earned his J.D. from the Washington University School of Law in 1985. Upon graduation, Judge Bacharach served as a law clerk from 1985 to 1987 to the Honorable William J. Holloway, Jr. on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. After completion of his clerkship, he was hired as an associate at Crowe & Dunlevy, where he became a shareholder in 1994. He remained at the firm until becoming a U.S. magistrate judge in 1999. At Crowe & Dunlevy, he primarily practiced in commercial litigation, focusing on antitrust and franchise litigation. He also handled a considerable number of cases involving the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, ERISA, from 1996 to 1998.

From 1997 to 1999, Judge Bacharach served as an adjunct professor of law at the University Of Oklahoma School Of Law. During this period, he was a co-instructor for a class titled ''Civil Pretrial Litigation.''

In 1999, the U.S. district judges for the Western District of Oklahoma appointed Judge Bacharach to be a U.S. magistrate judge. As a magistrate judge, he manages all aspects of the pretrial process in civil and criminal cases: conducting evidentiary hearings, ruling on nondispositive motions, making reports and recommendations regarding dispositive motions, and issuing criminal complaints, search warrants, and arrest warrants.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum. If there is time remaining, I ask the time be equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

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

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, we yield back the remaining time on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All debate time has expired.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Robert E. Bacharach, of Oklahoma, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit?

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 22 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Alexander	Enzi	McCain
Ayotte	Feinstein	McCaskill
Baldwin	Fischer	McConnell
Barrasso	Flake	Menendez
Baucus	Franken	Merkley
Begich	Gillibrand	Mikulski
Bennet	Graham	Moran
Blumenthal	Grassley	Murkowski
Blunt	Hagan	Murphy
Boozman	Hatch	Murray
Boxer	Heinrich	Nelson
Brown	Heitkamp	Portman
Burr	Heller	Pryor
Cantwell	Hirono	Reed
Cardin	Hoeven	Reid
Carper	Inhofe	Risch
Casey	Isakson	Roberts
Coats	Johanns	Rockefeller
Coburn	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Cochran	Kaine	Sanders
Collins	King	Schatz
Coons	Kirk	Schumer
Corker	Klobuchar	Scott
Cornyn	Landrieu	Sessions
Cowan	Leahy	Shaheen
Cruz	Lee	Shelby
Donnelly	Levin	Stabenow
Durbin	Manchin	Tester
Thune	Vitter	Whitehouse
Toomey	Warner	Wicker
Udall (NM)	Warren	Wyden

NOT VOTING—7

Chambliss	Johnson (WI)	Udall (CO)
Crapo	Lautenberg	
Harkin	Paul	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

The Senator from Oklahoma.

BACHARACH CONFIRMATION

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I am very pleased that we have just confirmed Judge Bacharach. He is going to make a great Federal judge. I have just been real pleased, I have to admit; I was literally running from the airport to get here because they had plane troubles, and I saw Senator PRYOR was in the same situation. So let me, first of all, thank the leadership for holding that vote open so I would not find myself in the embarrassing position of not voting to confirm my best friend from Oklahoma. So we are in that situation.

Let me just say that I am very proud of him. He actually started on the Tenth Circuit as a clerk. So he really knows this stuff. He has been there for a long time. As part of his profile, as a future goal, he intended to improve. He has actually made that statement. I believe ''always working to improve'' has been a defining characteristic of Judge Bacharach's career.

He graduated in the top 4 percent of his class in law school. He received all kinds of academic awards and maintained memberships in the highest orders of law school students. He began his legal scholarship on Law Review and has continued writing in a number of law journals.

As I said, he actually started in the Tenth Circuit working as a law clerk for the chief judge. So he knows that circuit. I do not think there is anyone out there who would know it better.

Judge Bacharach has multiple years of litigation experience working for the firm Crowe and Dunlevy in Oklahoma City and in public service as a Federal magistrate for the U.S. District Court in the Western District of Oklahoma. As evidence of his career of distinction, when Judge Bacharach was chosen to be a magistrate judge from a pool of many well-qualified candidates, the chief judge characterized the decision as ''an easy one.''

Since that time his colleagues have characterized his service as remarkable, demonstrating superb judicial temperament, and being a real asset to the Western District family and the

legal community. As with any position in the judicial branch that comes with a lifetime appointment, the Senate must deliberate carefully; and we did and gave all the thought to this nominee, as was shown, clearly demonstrated by a unanimous vote for confirmation. You do not see this very often, but you saw it with Judge Bacharach.

So I appreciate the opportunity to support him today and to have been able to call and be the first to congratulate him in this new part of his career, of which we are going to be very proud. I can assure the Presiding Officer and all the rest of us this is a guy of whom we will always be proud.

So I say congratulations to Judge Bacharach. You are going to do a great job. We will depend on that, and we will be watching to make sure that happens.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

VOTING RIGHTS ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Less than 7 years ago, Republicans and Democrats in the Senate and in the House of Representatives joined together to reauthorize key expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. We explained and documented our findings that this landmark civil rights law was still needed because of continuing discrimination and to preserve the progress that had been made. Because of this extensive record and the acceptance of the Voting Rights Act's importance in our country, our 2006 reauthorization of this crucial law was marked by Members of Congress from both parties and from every corner of the Nation coming together to renew one of the cornerstones of American Democracy.

It is a sad irony that on the same day we will be honoring Civil Rights icon Rosa Parks by unveiling her statue in the U.S. Capitol, the first full statue of an African American to stand in the halls of Congress, across the street the Supreme Court will be hearing arguments from those challenging the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act reauthorization named in part for her. In the pending case, the challengers seek to strike down Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act even though that critical section has protected constitutional guarantees against discrimination in voting where 100 years of prior civil rights laws failed. The Supreme Court got it right four years ago when it upheld the constitutional authority of Congress to reauthorize Section 5 against a similar challenge. Neither the words of the Constitution nor the importance of these critical provisions for protecting the right to vote has changed in the last four years. Under the specific words of the 14th and 15th Amendments, Congress has the power to remedy discrimination and enforce the Amendments by enacting laws that address racial discrimination in connection with voting. That is what we did nearly unanimously less than 7 years ago. And over the past year lower courts have repeatedly upheld both its constitutionality and its protections. In light of the lengthy court findings from just the last year, there can be no doubt that the operation of the Voting Rights Act is continuing to protect American voters from discrimination.

In his historic ''I Have a Dream'' speech, Martin Luther King, Jr. proclaimed: ''When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.'' The Voting Rights Act is one of our most important means for enforcing this promise and upholding the Constitution's guarantee of equal rights and equal protection of the law. Reauthorizing and restoring the Voting Rights Act was the right thing to do, not only for those who fought and bled for its passage but also for those who come after us—our children and our grandchildren. We owe it to them to continue our commitment to this vital Act. No one's right to vote should be abridged, suppressed or denied in the United States of America.

As we celebrate Black History Month and the significant progress we have made as a Nation, let us not forget the promissory note to future generations and the continuing need for civil rights laws such as the Voting Rights Act.

Our Nation has grown stronger since its Founding as more Americans have been able to exercise their right to vote. The actions taken by previous generations—through a Civil War, through Constitutional amendments, and through the long struggles of the civil rights movement—have worked to break down barriers that stood in the way of all Americans participating in our Democracy.

It has not been an easy road. The pervasive discriminatory tactics that led to the original Voting Rights Act were deeply rooted. As a nation, this effort to ensure equal protection dates back more than 140 years to the ratification of the 15th Amendment in 1870, the last of the post-Civil War Reconstruction amendments. Yet, it took 95 years from the passage of the 15th Amendment and a historic struggle for civil rights for people of all races to begin the effective exercise of the rights guaranteed by that Amendment. The struggle reached a crucial turning point on March 7, 1965, on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL, when state troopers brutally attacked JOHN LEWIS and his fellow civil rights marchers who were trying to exercise their civil rights. The events of that day, now known as ''Bloody Sunday,'' were a catalyst to the passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act, which finally ensured a century after the enactment of the Civil War amendments that the Constitution's guarantees of equal access to the political process, regardless of race, would not be undermined by discriminatory practices.

Prior to the Voting Rights Act, minorities of all races faced major barriers to participation in the political process, through the use of such devices as poll taxes, exclusionary primaries, intimidation by voting officials, language barriers, and systematic vote dilution. Section 5 provides a remedy for unconstitutional discrimination in voting by requiring certain jurisdictions with a history of discrimination to ''pre-clear'' all voting changes with either the Justice Department or the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. This remedy combats the practice of covered jurisdictions shifting from one invalidated discriminatory voting tactic to another, which had undermined efforts to enforce the Fifteenth Amendment for nearly a century.

In 2006, congressional leadership stood together on the steps of the Capitol to introduce a bill to reauthorize and reinvigorate the Voting Rights Act—an historic announcement in an era of intense partisanship. We came together in recognition that there are few things as critical to our Nation, and to American citizenship, as voting. In sharp contrast to the tremendous resistance and bitter politics which met the initial enactment of the Voting Rights Act, our efforts in 2006 overcame objections through discussions, the hearing process and by developing an overwhelming record of justification for extension of the expiring provisions. The legislation contained specific findings about the need for reauthorization and concluded that without reauthorization the gains we have made would be undermined. Our efforts reached completion when President Bush signed the bill into law after a unanimous vote in the Senate and nearly unanimous vote in the House.

At that time, I was the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the lead Democratic Senate sponsor of the reauthorization. Over the course of 19 hearings, the Senate and House Judiciary Committees developed a comprehensive record supporting the continuing need for a reauthorized and reinvigorated Voting Rights Act. In the Senate Judiciary Committee alone we received testimony from 46 witnesses, including a

range of constitutional scholars, voting rights advocates, and Supreme Court practitioners, regarding the need for reauthorization of the expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act. In addition, the Committee gathered and considered thousands of pages of testimony, articles, letters, and other evidence from these witnesses and other sources discussing these issues. This evidence, along with voluminous evidence gathered in the House—under the leadership of then-Judiciary Chairman JAMES SENSENBRENNER, MEL WATT, JOHN CONYERS and JOHN LEWIS—provided an overwhelming demonstration that Section 5 continues to be an effective and necessary tool for protecting minority voting rights.

At the time the Senate voted, we had before us the House Committee Report, the full debate from the floor of the House of Representatives, including debate surrounding four substantive amendments to H.R. 9 that were all rejected, leading up to final passage of the Voting Rights Act reauthorization. Before we voted, I also provided the Senate with some of the extensive evidence received over several months of hearings in the Judiciary Committee about the persistence of discriminatory practices in Section 5 covered jurisdictions.

The record gathered by the Judiciary Committee included three categories of evidence supporting the continuation of Section 5. First, we found evidence that even with Section 5 in place, covered jurisdictions continued to engage in recurring discriminatory tactics, often in subtle forms that play on racially polarized voting to deny the effectiveness of the votes cast by members of a particular race. Second, we found evidence that Section 5 provides an effective deterrent against bad practices in covered jurisdictions. Finally, we found evidence that Section 5 plays a vital role in securing the gains minority voters have achieved against the risk of backsliding.

Most importantly, of course, at the time we voted, all Senators had before them the detailed findings in Section 2 of the legislation based on the record and all Senators endorsed those findings with their votes. For example, those findings explicitly include:

> Evidence of continued discrimination includ[ing] . . . the hundreds of objections interposed, requests for more information submitted followed by voting changes withdrawn from consideration by jurisdictions covered by the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and section 5 enforcement actions undertaken by the Department of Justice in covered jurisdictions since 1982 that prevented election practices, such as annexation, at-large voting, and the use of multi-member districts, from being enacted to dilute minority voting strength; . . . the number of requests for declaratory judgments denied by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia; [and] . . . the continued filing of section 2 cases that originated in covered jurisdiction . . .

By passing the legislation, Congress adopted and reaffirmed these detailed findings, including Congress' determination that:

> [t]he continued evidence of racially polarized voting in each of the jurisdictions covered by the expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 demonstrates that racial and language minorities remain politically vulnerable, warranting the continued protection of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Now some suggest that Section 5 should be a victim of its success. In my view abandoning a successful deterrent just because it works defies logic and common sense. When Congress finds an effective and constitutional way to prevent violations of the law, the courts must uphold it. In fact, since 1966, whenever the Supreme Court has reviewed or even cited to the Voting Rights Act, it has affirmed the Act as a valid exercise of congressional authority. That is what the Court rightly did again in 2009.

Nothing we have seen in the time since Congress reauthorized the Voting Rights Act in 2006 or since the Supreme Court again upheld Section 5 in 2009 has invalidated Congress' determination to reauthorize that critical remedy for racial discrimination in voting. In fact, the events of last year's election only serve to remind us anew of the continuing need for Section 5. Last year, panels of judges appointed by presidents of both parties found that Texas intentionally discriminated against minority voters in redistricting, and that Texas failed to demonstrate that its voter ID law does not impose greater burdens on minority voters. A separate panel of three Federal judges approved South Carolina's voter identification law under Section 5 starting this year, with judges appointed by Republican and Democratic Presidents noting that South Carolina legislators passed a less restrictive law than they desired specifically in order to comply with the Voting Rights Act. Without Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, worse laws would be in place and the fundamental rights of many Americans would be diminished.

The Voting Rights Act is one of the most important laws ever passed by Congress, transforming America by ushering the nation out of a history of discrimination into an era of greater inclusion. The Act has been a tremendous source of protection for the voting rights of those long discriminated against and a great deterrent against discriminatory efforts cropping up anew. As we celebrate Black History Month, we should reflect not only on how far we have come, but how far we still must travel to truly secure the guarantees of the Constitution for all Americans.

Ensuring that all Americans are able to vote and have their vote counted should be an issue of concern to Democrats and Republicans, and a matter of conscience for all of us regardless of political party. That is how it was in 2006, when members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats, stood together on the Capitol steps to reaffirm our commitment to full democratic participation by reauthorizing the key expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

I am confident that this week when the Justices review the substantial record relied upon by America's elected representatives in Congress, they will again do the right thing. Congress is at the height of its power when giving enforceable meaning to the 14th and the 15th amendments. That is what Congress did when passing the Voting Rights Act in 1965, and what we did when we voted nearly unanimously to extend the vital remedies of Section 5 in 2006. Now the Supreme Court is called upon to respect the role of Congress by upholding this vital civil rights legislation as it rightly did in 2009.

There are few things as critical to our Nation, and to American citizenship, as voting. Like the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment, the right to vote is foundational because it secures the effective exercise of all other rights. As people are able to register, vote, and elect candidates of their choice, their interests and rights get attention. The very legitimacy of our government is dependent on the access all Americans have to the political process. Our democracy and our Nation have been better and richer for the protection of the Voting Rights Act. Now is no time for backsliding. Now is the time to renew our commitment to the right to vote for all Americans.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Mr. LEAHY. I have often said, Mr. President, that the Senate is supposed to be, it can be, and often is the conscience of the Nation. Well, we became the conscience of the Nation 2 weeks ago when Senators, both Republicans and Democrats, voted overwhelmingly to pass the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act. We made protection of these victims our top priority. After compromise and extensive negotiations, we set partisanship aside and came together.

The Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act will provide immeasurable help to all victims of domestic violence and of rape throughout our country and to victims of human trafficking in the United States and around the world. The Senate passed it with an appropriate show of bipartisan unity. A majority of Republican Senators voted for our bill, as did every woman elected to this body and every single Democratic Senator and the two Independents who caucus with the Democrats. My amendment adding significant human trafficking legislation passed with the support of 93 Senators.

Senators from across the political spectrum have shown that stopping domestic and sexual violence in the most effective way possible is an issue above politics. I mention this not to pat ourselves on the back but to say that, in contrast to this action where Republicans and Democrats came together to

protect women in this country, the House leadership is poised to once again take a different route. Tomorrow they are scheduled to substitute our bipartisan bill with a partisan alternative that leaves vulnerable victims without protection and mires our efforts in partisan politics, which delays getting help to victims. I hope they reconsider this ill-conceived approach. The overwhelming bipartisan support in the Senate for the VAWA reauthorization Senator CRAPO and I introduced sent a powerful message to survivors of violence. But this bill is about so much more than sending a message. It includes real, meaningful additions to the law to fill gaps and address needs that law enforcement, victims, and the service providers who work with victims every day have identified for us. None of these provisions are about politics. They are about preventing terrible crimes and helping the survivors of violence.

The Senate-passed bill takes new steps to prevent domestic violence homicides. It will increase the focus of law enforcement and victim service providers on rape and sexual assault crimes that too often slip through the cracks. It will take needed steps to address the horrifying epidemic of domestic violence in tribal communities and to increase protections for vulnerable immigrant victims. It ensures access to services for LGBT victims who experience domestic and sexual violence at rates at least as high as the rest of the population but often have no place to go for help.

Our bill strengthens protections on campuses, where too many students experience devastating violence instead of the wonderful experience of learning and growth that we all wish for our children. It includes new bipartisan measures to ensure that rape kits are promptly tested so that victims no longer live for years in fear when the perpetrators could be identified and taken off the streets. Our bill would give law enforcement and service providers new tools to crack down on sex trafficking and labor trafficking and help the victims of these appalling crimes. These common sense provisions will make a real difference in so many lives.

The poor substitute the Republican House leadership is putting forward once again takes a tragically different approach. Instead of taking up legislation developed over years of work with victims and those who help them, they have presented a version put together by a few here in Washington. For reasons I cannot understand, they have jettisoned the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act altogether and stripped provisions developed by Senator CORNYN, Senator GRASSLEY, and me to take meaningful steps to reduce the backlog of untested DNA evidence in rape kits. Those provisions could help victims and could help law enforcement keep our communities safe.

The House substitute drastically weakens protections for vulnerable victims. It eliminates key protections intended to keep college students safer. It fails to include meaningful language to ensure that LGBT victims can get the same help as any other victims. For immigrant victims, the House substitute actually adds new hurdles that would make it harder for victims to help law enforcement and receive assistance. It adds new burdens and loopholes to protections for Native women who experience domestic violence at horrific rates. The House substitute would continue to allow the most aggressive abusers of native women to escape justice since the most that could be charged in tribal courts would be a misdemeanor. That is not justice for the most vulnerable victims of domestic violence.

I have been working on this legislation for years. During the last year we have amended and tweaked its language many times to accommodate the requests of various Republicans who support the effort. I stand ready to work with House leadership and have reached out to Speaker BOEHNER several times. I have not heard from House leadership once this year. I appreciate the efforts of such conservative House Republicans as Congressmen TOM COLE and DARRELL ISSA, who have tried to find common ground with reasonable compromise approaches to the tribal provisions. I know there are many others in the House of Representatives who believe that we must reauthorize and reinvigorate the Violence Against Women Act so that it protects all victims. It is not too late for others in the House to follow their lead and come together to pass a meaningful reform that protects all victims.

The poor substitute the Republican House leadership is proposing will disappoint the community of violence survivors and those of us who are trying to prevent further violence by passing needed protections. If the House leadership were serious about getting the Violence Against Women Act reauthorized and protecting our most vulnerable victims against rape, sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking, they would simply take up the Senate bill. So many Republicans, Democrats, and Independents here support it and passed that bill.

I don't understand this picking and choosing about who is going to be considered a victim. I have said this so many times on this floor, I almost wonder if anybody hears it, but, as many other Senators have, I had the privilege of being a prosecutor before I came here. I went to a lot of very violent crime scenes at 2 and 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning, and some of them I remember almost as graphically as if it were yesterday, with a victim of severe violence, often dead, there on the floor. The police never said: Well, we have to find out if this victim is gay or straight, if this victim is Native American or an immigrant. No, they knew that a victim was a victim was a victim. If somebody has been treated that way, a crime has been committed, and the police want to find out who committed the crime and stop them before they do it again.

Back then, we didn't have anything like the Violence Against Women Act—an act which has protected so many people before they could become a victim, and which provides the tools to prevent this sort of victimization. I think of some of the victims I saw, sometimes in the morgue, and I know if we had something like our Violence Against Women Act at that time, they would be alive today.

So let's put aside gamesmanship and let's worry about the real victims in this country. None of us here will face the horrendous things these women go through, but we can help stop these horrendous things from happening to them, and we should do that.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. MULLIGAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the important work of Michael J. Mulligan, who retired February 1, 2013. Mr. Mulligan demonstrated great dedication to enhancing the safety and security of the United States Senate, staff, and visitors.

Beginning his career as a combat engineer officer in the U.S. Army, Mr. Mulligan served a 15-year tour at Fort Ritchie, MD, as the Chief of Engineering and Plans. During this time, he directed the largest expansion of facilities, infrastructure, and community planning in the installation's history. While on temporary assignment to the Army Corps of Engineers in Kuwait, Mr. Mulligan led technical advisors to provide engineering assistance to restore two war damaged air bases.

Mr. Mulligan went on to serve as Director of Facilities at the Alternate Joint Communications Center-Site R. He directed operations to sustain facility excellence in engineering, contingency planning, life support, and logistics in support of Continuity of Operations for the senior DOD leadership—a mission which he ably executed on September 11, 2001.

Mr. Mulligan was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 2011. As a senior leader in the National Security Agency, Mr. Mulligan provided invaluable stewardship of an important classified program that supported the National Security Emergency Preparedness program.

Furthermore, Mr. Mulligan has authored several writings on public administration and leadership and received numerous service medals and commendations for exceptional public service.

I, along with my colleagues in the Senate, congratulate Mr. Mulligan on his well-earned retirement and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

REMEMBERING JUSTICE MARY ANN McMORROW

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President today I wish to pay tribute to Justice Mary Ann McMorrow, a devoted public servant and a pioneer of the Illinois legal community who passed away last weekend at the age of 83.

Justice McMorrow was a native Chicagoan, attending Immaculata High School and Rosary College which is now Dominican University. She went on to attend the Loyola University School of Law, where she was elected class president and served as associate editor of the Law Review. She graduated in 1953 as the only woman in her class. Yet as Justice McMorrow set off on her legal career, she refused to let glass ceilings stop her from reaching the greatest heights.

Justice McMorrow embarked on a public service career that would span decades and culminate in her service as the first woman on the Illinois Supreme Court and its first female chief justice. Her public sector career began with a post as an assistant State's attorney in Cook County, where she became the first woman in Cook County to prosecute major felonies. On one occasion she was told by a supervisor in the State's attorney's office that she would not be presenting an oral argument before the Illinois Supreme Court because women had not done that before. Well, before long Justice McMorrow would preside over the very same arguments from which she was once excluded.

In 1976, Justice McMorrow was elected as a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, and she joined the Illinois Appellate Court in 1985. She was elected to the Illinois Supreme Court in 1992 and became the chief justice of that court in 2002. The importance of this achievement cannot be overstated. As Justice McMorrow said upon becoming chief justice, ''When I went to law school, women couldn't even dream of such a thing. I hope this would forever indicate that there's nothing that limits women in any job or any profession.'' Justice McMorrow served as chief justice until her retirement in 2006, and overall she wrote 225 majority opinions during her Supreme Court tenure.

Justice McMorrow was an active member of her church, St. Mary of the Woods, and along with her late husband Emmett she was committed to her community and to various charities. Among the many accolades Justice McMorrow received during her career were the Medal of Excellence award from the Loyola University School of Law Alumni Association, the Chicago Bar Association's Justice John Paul Stevens Award, the American Bar Association's Margaret A. Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, and the Myra Bradwell Woman of Achievement Award, the highest award given by the Women's Bar Association of Illinois. In addition to these honors, she also received four honorary degrees and numerous other awards. When asked about her illustrious career, Justice McMorrow responded, ''I just simply tried to do my best in every task that was presented to me.''

Justice McMorrow was truly a model of what hard work and humility can accomplish. During a time when women were not accepted as equals in the legal profession she proved herself superior. When young women in classrooms across Illinois are asked what they want to be when they grow up, they can confidently respond that they will be judges and have Justice McMorrow as a beacon to strive towards. Today as we mourn her passing we also celebrate her achievements and the legacy of opportunity she has created for countless young women in our State.

Loretta and I send our condolences to Justice McMorrow's daughter Mary Ann, her sister Frances, and her other family and friends across Illinois and the Nation.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship today adopted rules governing its procedures for the 113th Congress. Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying rules adopted by the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULES FOR THE U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR THE 113TH CONGRESS

JURISDICTION (ESTABLISHED IN THE SENATE STANDING RULES)

Per rule XXV(1) of the Standing Rules of the Senate:

(o)(1) Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship to which committee shall be referred all proposed legislation, messages, petitions, memorials, and other matters relating to the Small Business Administration;

(2) Any proposed legislation reported by such committee which relates to matters other than the functions of the Small Business Administration shall, at the request of the chairman of any standing committee having jurisdiction over the subject matter extraneous to the functions of the Small Business Administration, be considered and reported by such standing committee prior to its consideration by the Senate; and likewise measures reported by other committees directly relating to the Small Business Administration shall, at the request of the Chair of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, be referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship for its consideration of any portion of the measure dealing with the Small Business Administration and be reported by this committee prior to its consideration by the Senate.

(3) Such committee shall also study and survey by means of research and investigation all problems of American small business enterprises, and report thereon from time to time.

GENERAL SECTION

All applicable provisions of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Senate Resolutions, and the Legislative Reorganization Acts of 1946 and of 1970 (as amended), shall govern the Committee.

MEETINGS

(a) The regular meeting day of the Committee shall be the first Thursday of each month unless otherwise directed by the Chair. All other meetings may be called by the Chair as he or she deems necessary, on 5 business days notice where practicable. If at least three Members of the Committee desire the Chair to call a special meeting, they may file in the office of the Committee a written request therefore, addressed to the Chair. Immediately thereafter, the Clerk of the Committee shall notify the Chair of such request. If, within 3 calendar days after the filing of such request, the Chair fails to call the requested special meeting, which is to be held within 7 calendar days after the filing of such request, a majority of the Committee Members may file in the Office of the Committee their written notice that a special Committee meeting will be held, specifying the date, hour and place thereof, and the Committee shall meet at that time and place. Immediately upon the filing of such notice, the Clerk of the Committee shall notify all Committee Members that such special meeting will be held and inform them of its date, hour and place. If the Chair is not present at any regular, additional or special meeting or hearing, such member of the Committee as the Chair shall designate shall preside. For any meeting or hearing of the Committee, the Ranking Member may delegate to any Minority Member the authority to serve as Ranking Member, and that Minority Member shall be afforded all the rights and responsibilities of the Ranking Member for the duration of that meeting or hearing. Notice of any designation shall be provided to the Chief Clerk as early as practicable.

(b) It shall not be in order for the Committee to consider any amendment in the first degree proposed to any measure under consideration by the Committee unless an electronic copy of such amendment has been delivered to the Clerk of the Committee at least 2 business days prior to the meeting. Following receipt of all amendments, the Clerk shall disseminate the amendments to all Members of the Committee. This subsection may be waived by agreement of the Chair and Ranking Member or by a majority vote of the members of the Committee.

QUORUMS

(a)(1) A majority of the Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for reporting any legislative measure or nomination.

(2) One-third of the Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of routine business, provided that one Minority Member is present. The term ''routine business'' includes, but is not limited to, the consideration of legislation pending before the Committee and any amendments thereto, and voting on such amendments, and steps in an investigation including, but not limited to, authorizing the issuance of a subpoena.

(3) In hearings, whether in public or closed session, a quorum for the asking of testimony, including sworn testimony, shall consist of one Member of the Committee.

(b) Proxies will be permitted in voting upon the business of the Committee. A Member who is unable to attend a business meeting may submit a proxy vote on any matter, in writing, or through oral or written personal instructions to a Member of the Committee or staff. Proxies shall in no case be counted for establishing a quorum.

NOMINATIONS

In considering a nomination, the Committee shall conduct an investigation or review of the nominee's experience, qualifications, suitability, and integrity to serve in the position to which he or she has been nominated. In any hearings on the nomination, the nominee shall be called to testify under oath on all matters relating to his or her nomination for office. To aid in such investigation or review, each nominee may be required to submit a sworn detailed statement including biographical, financial, policy, and other information which the Committee may request. The Committee may specify which items in such statement are to be received on a confidential basis.

HEARINGS

(a)(1) The Chair of the Committee may initiate a hearing of the Committee on his or her authority or upon his or her approval of a request by any Member of the Committee. If such request is by the Ranking Member, a decision shall be communicated to the Ranking Member within 7 business days. Written notice of all hearings, including the title, a description of the hearing, and a tentative witness list shall be given at least 5 business days in advance, where practicable, to all Members of the Committee.

(2) Hearings of the Committee shall not be scheduled outside the District of Columbia unless specifically authorized by the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member or by consent of a majority of the Committee. Such consent may be given informally, without a meeting, but must be in writing.

(b) (1) Any Member of the Committee shall be empowered to administer the oath to any witness testifying as to fact.

(2) The Chair and Ranking Member shall be empowered to call an equal number of witnesses to a Committee hearing. Subject to Senate Standing Rule 26(4)(d), such number shall exclude any Administration witness unless such witness would be the sole hearing witness, in which case the Ranking Member shall be entitled to invite one witness. The preceding two sentences shall not apply when a witness appears as the nominee. Interrogation of witnesses at hearings shall be conducted on behalf of the Committee by Members of the Committee or such Committee staff as is authorized by the Chair or Ranking Minority Member.

(3) Witnesses appearing before the Committee shall file with the Clerk of the Committee a written statement of the prepared testimony at least two business days in advance of the hearing at which the witness is to appear unless this requirement is waived by the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member.

(c) Any witness summoned to a public or closed hearing may be accompanied by counsel of his or her own choosing, who shall be permitted while the witness is testifying to advise the witness of his or her legal rights. Failure to obtain counsel will not excuse the witness from appearing and testifying.

(d) Subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses or the production of memoranda, documents, records, and other materials may be authorized by the Chair with the consent of the Ranking Minority Member or by the consent of a majority of the Members of the Committee. Such consent may be given informally, without a meeting, but must be in writing. The Chair may subpoena attendance or production without the consent of the Ranking Minority Member when the Chair has not received notification from the Ranking Minority Member of disapproval of the subpoena within 72 hours of being notified of the intended subpoena, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. Subpoenas shall be issued by the Chair or by the Member of the Committee designated by him or her. A subpoena for the attendance of a witness shall state briefly the purpose of the hearing and the matter or matters to which the witness is expected to testify. A subpoena for the production of memoranda, documents, records, and other materials shall identify the papers or materials required to be produced with as much particularity as is practicable.

(e) The Chair shall rule on any objections or assertions of privilege as to testimony or evidence in response to subpoenas or questions of Committee Members and staff in hearings.

(f) Testimony may be submitted to the formal record for a period not less than two weeks following a hearing or roundtable, unless otherwise agreed to by Chair and Ranking Member.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

(a) No confidential testimony taken by, or confidential material presented to, the Committee in executive session, or any report of the proceedings of a closed hearing, or confidential testimony or material submitted pursuant to a subpoena, shall be made public, either in whole or in part or by way of summary, unless authorized by a majority of the Members. Other confidential material or testimony submitted to the Committee may be disclosed if authorized by the Chair with the consent of the Ranking Member.

(b) Persons asserting confidentiality of documents or materials submitted to the Committee offices shall clearly designate them as such on their face. Designation of submissions as confidential does not prevent their use in furtherance of Committee business.

MEDIA & BROADCASTING

(a) At the discretion of the Chair, public meetings of the Committee may be televised, broadcasted, or recorded in whole or in part by a member of the Senate Press Gallery or an employee of the Senate. Any such person wishing to televise, broadcast, or record a Committee meeting must request approval of the Chair by submitting a written request to the Committee Office by 5 p.m. the day before the meeting. Notice of televised or broadcasted hearings shall be provided to the Ranking Minority Member as soon as practicable.

(b) During public meetings of the Committee, any person using a camera, microphone, or other electronic equipment may not position or use the equipment in a way that interferes with the seating, vision, or hearing of Committee members or staff on the dais, or with the orderly process of the meeting.

SUB-COMMITTEES

The Committee shall not have standing subcommittees.

AMENDMENT OF RULES

The foregoing rules may be added to, modified or amended; provided, however, that not less than a majority of the entire Membership so determined at a regular meeting with due notice, or at a meeting specifically called for that purpose.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation has adopted rules governing its procedures for the 113th Congress. Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying rules for the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

113TH CONGRESS

RULE I—MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. IN GENERAL.—The regular meeting dates of the Committee shall be the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Additional meetings may be called by the Chairman as the Chairman may deem necessary, or pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 3 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

2. OPEN MEETINGS.—Meetings of the Committee, or any subcommittee, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by the Committee, or any subcommittee, on the same subject for a period of no more than 14 calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in subparagraphs (A) through (F) would require the meeting to be closed, followed immediately by a record vote in open session by a majority of the members of the Committee, or any subcommittee, when it is determined that the matter to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings—

(A) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(B) will relate solely to matters of Committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(C) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(D) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interest of effective law enforcement;

(E) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets of, or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to, a given person if—

(1) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(2) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(F) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under other provisions of law or Government regulations.

3. STATEMENTS.—Each witness who is to appear before the Committee or any subcommittee shall file with the Committee, at least 24 hours in advance of the hearing, a written statement of the witness's testimony in as many copies as the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee prescribes.

4. FIELD HEARINGS.—Field hearings of the full Committee, and any subcommittee thereof, shall be scheduled only when authorized by the Chairman and ranking minority member of the full Committee.

RULE II—QUORUMS

1. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS, AND NOMINATIONS.—A majority of the members, which includes at least 1 minority member, shall constitute a quorum for official action of the Committee when reporting a bill, resolution, or nomination. Proxies may not be counted in making a quorum for purposes of this paragraph.

2. OTHER BUSINESS.—One-third of the entire membership of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business as may be considered by the Committee, except for the reporting of a bill, resolution, or nomination or authorizing a subpoena. Proxies may not be counted in making a quorum for purposes of this paragraph.

3. TAKING TESTIMONY.—For the purpose of taking sworn testimony a quorum of the Committee and each subcommittee thereof, now or hereafter appointed, shall consist of 1 member of the Committee.

RULE III—PROXIES

When a record vote is taken in the Committee on any bill, resolution, amendment, or any other question, the required quorum being present, a member who is unable to attend the meeting may submit his or her vote by proxy, in writing or by telephone, or through personal instructions.

RULE IV—CONSIDERATION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

It shall not be in order during a meeting of the Committee to move to proceed to the consideration of any bill or resolution unless the bill or resolution has been filed with the Clerk of the Committee not less than 48 hours in advance of the Committee meeting, in as many copies as the Chairman of the Committee prescribes. This rule may be waived with the concurrence of the Chairman and the ranking minority member of the full Committee.

RULE V—SUBPOENAS; COUNSEL; RECORD

1. SUBPOENAS.—The Chairman, with the approval of the ranking minority member of the Committee, may subpoena the attendance of witnesses for hearings and the production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other materials. The Chairman may subpoena such attendance of witnesses or production of materials without the approval of the ranking minority member if the Chairman or a member of the Committee staff designated by the Chairman has not received notification from the ranking minority member or a member of the Committee staff designated by the ranking minority member of disapproval of the subpoena within 72 hours, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, of being notified of the subpoena. If a subpoena is disapproved by the ranking minority member as provided in this paragraph, the subpoena may be authorized by vote of the Members of the Committee, the quorum required by paragraph 1 of rule II being present. When the Committee or Chairman authorizes a subpoena, it shall be issued upon the signature of the Chairman or any other Member of the Committee designated by the Chairman. At the direction of the Chairman, with notification to the ranking minority member of not less than 72 hours, the staff is authorized to take depositions from witnesses. The ranking minority member, or a member of the Committee staff designated by the ranking minority member, shall be given the opportunity to attend and participate in the taking of any deposition. Witnesses at depositions shall be examined upon oath administered by an individual authorized by law to administer oaths, or administered by any member of the Committee if one is present.

2. COUNSEL.—Witnesses may be accompanied at a public or executive hearing, or the taking of a deposition, by counsel to advise them of their rights. Counsel retained by any witness and accompanying such witness shall be permitted to be present during the testimony of the witness at any public or executive hearing, or the taking of a deposition, to advise the witness, while the witness is testifying, of the witness's legal rights. In the case of any witness who is an officer or employee of the government, or of a corporation or association, the Chairman may rule that representation by counsel from the government, corporation, or association or by counsel representing other witnesses, creates a conflict of interest, and that the witness may only be represented during testimony before the Committee by personal counsel not from the government, corporation, or association or by personal counsel not representing other witnesses. This subparagraph shall not be construed to excuse a witness from testifying in the event the witness's counsel is ejected for conducting himself or herself in such manner as to prevent, impede, disrupt, obstruct, or interfere with the orderly administration of a hearing or the taking of a deposition. This subparagraph may not be construed as authorizing counsel to coach the witness or to answer for the witness. The failure of any witness to secure counsel shall not excuse the witness from complying with a subpoena.

3. RECORD.—An accurate electronic or stenographic record shall be kept of the testimony of all witnesses in executive and public hearings and depositions. If testimony given by deposition is transcribed, the individual administering the oath shall certify on the transcript that the witness was duly sworn in his or her presence and the transcriber shall certify that the transcript is a true record of the testimony. The transcript with these certifications shall be filed with the chief clerk of the Committee. The record of a witness's testimony, whether in public or executive session or in a deposition, shall be made available for inspection by the witness or the witness's counsel under Committee supervision. A copy of any testimony given in public session, or that part of the testimony given by the witness in executive session or deposition and subsequently quoted or made part of the record in a public session, shall be provided to that witness at the witness's expense if so requested. Upon inspecting the transcript, within a time limit set by the Clerk of the Committee, a witness may request changes in the transcript to correct errors of transcription and grammatical errors. The witness may also bring to the attention of the Committee errors of fact in the witness's testimony by submitting a sworn statement about those facts with a request that it be attached to the transcript. The Chairman or a member of the Committee staff designated by the Chairman shall rule on such requests.

RULE VI—BROADCASTING OF HEARINGS

Public hearings of the full Committee, or any subcommittee thereof, shall be televised or broadcast only when authorized by the Chairman and the ranking minority member of the full Committee.

RULE VII—SUBCOMMITTEES

1. HEARINGS.—Any member of the Committee may sit with any subcommittee during its hearings.

2. CHANGE OF CHAIRMANSHIP.—Subcommittees shall be considered de novo whenever there is a change in the chairmanship, and seniority on the particular subcommittee shall not necessarily apply.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN D. BENNETT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I also wish to recognize and pay tribute to Mr. John D. Bennett, the Director of the National Clandestine Service, NCS, of the Central Intelligence Agency, who will retire from the CIA, for the second time, on February 28, 2013. Mr. Bennett's career spans over 30 years in the CIA during which he distinguished himself as a patriot, leader, and friend of the U.S. Senate. John Bennett also served as an infantry officer in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1975 to 1980.

It is a rare opportunity to pay tribute publicly to one of the men and women who serve beyond the front lines, working in secret to protect and serve the Nation. Having ''come in from the cold,'' I am pleased to be able to say a few words about John.

A Massachusetts native, Mr. Bennett received a B.A. degree in government from Harvard University in 1975 and an M.A. in National Security Studies from Georgetown University in 1991.

Since joining the CIA in 1981, John served more than 17 years abroad in multiple assignments, including as chief of station in multiple countries, in Southeast Asia and Africa, where he was able to use his language fluency of French. In addition to returning from retirement to take the helm of the NCS in July 2010, he has held Senior Executive Service level Headquarters assignments as Deputy Director of the National Clandestine Service for Community Human Intelligence from 2005–2006; Chief, Special Activities Division from 2003–2005; and Deputy Chief, Africa Division and Chief of Africa Operations from 1995–1999. Mr. Bennett served also as the Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence from May 1990 to May 1991.

When Director Panetta asked John to return to service he stated:

> John says what he thinks and he does what he says. I trust him, and I rely on him.

He has helped guide the agency through some of the most complex and challenging operations imaginable, including the historic takedown of Osama bin Laden.

John Bennett served with distinction as the Director of the NCS for the past 3 years. In this capacity, John had frequent interaction with Senators and staff of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. His professionalism, mature judgment, expertise, and frank advice earned him the respect and confidence of the committee. His sound judgment, courage, and candor also directly contributed to his successful representation of the CIA's interests before the committee and Congress.

Throughout his career, John Bennett demonstrated a profound commitment to our Nation, selfless service to the CIA, deep concern for agency officers and their families, and a commitment to excellence. John is the consummate intelligence professional whose performance, in over 30 years of service, has personified those traits of courage, competency, and integrity that our Nation expects from its professional intelligence officers.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. John Bennett for his honorable service to the Central Intelligence Agency and the people of the United States, and also to thank John's wife Kit for her support and understanding, as well as her sacrifices in allowing John to selflessly commit himself to protecting our Nation.

We wish John and Kit Bennett all the best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO L. CHRISTINE HEALEY

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the dedicated career and service to the Congress and the Nation of Louise Christine ''Chris'' Healey, who is retiring at the end of this week after nearly 30 years of work for the legislative branch. I am pleased to have the opportunity to publicly thank her and to note my appreciation for her dedicated and dignified efforts.

Chris is leaving the Senate as the general counsel on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, serving as the top legal advisor to the committee.

As committee counsel and general counsel over the past 8 years, Chris has been instrumental in the debating and drafting of every significant piece of intelligence legislation passed, and in some cases not passed, over the past decade. She was the principal drafter of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, which is among the most complex pieces of legislation recently enacted, and certainly one of the most important to the security of our Nation. She has been as responsible as anyone for the passage of a string of four annual intelligence authorization bills, including the fiscal year 2013 act that was completed in December.

In her time at the SSCI, Chris has exemplified the professional and bipartisan spirit of the committee, working closely with Members and staff on both sides of the aisle. She has invested herself in conducting oversight, drafting bills, carrying out investigations, and reviewing and shepherding the President's nominees to Senate-confirmed positions, among many other things.

Her approach has always been dignified and calm. I am proud to be able to say that the rancor and divisiveness of the Senate over the past years has not infiltrated the work of the committee. Among the reasons we have been able to work together, review and debate serious issues, and come to bipartisan solutions is that we have people like Chris Healey who are more interested in getting the right results the right way rather than succeeding at the expense of someone else.

Prior to working for the committee, Ms. Healey worked for the Government Affairs Committee on the landmark legislation that reformed the intelligence community and created the position of the Director of National Intelligence. She was a senior counsel and team leader on the 9/11 Commission. And prior to that, she spent a decade on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, including as staff director. Chris has been the institutional memory of intelligence in the Congress, and her expertise and experience will be sorely missed.

But while a leading voice within these congressional committees and commissions and in interactions with the nonprofit community and executive branch, Chris has managed the rare feat of having a life as well.

She married musician Ryan Brown in 1989 and had her first son, Nathaniel, in 1990. Nathaniel has begun following Chris' footsteps, exploring his own work in government and politics. Chris and Ryan had their second son, Gabriel, in 1994, and he, too, has now grown up and is nearing his graduation from Oberlin College. Chris has walked to work every day from her Capitol Hill home, while supporting in many ways Ryan Brown's Opera Lafayette. He notes that in addition to her dedication to public service, Chris is an avid reader and an enthusiastic theater and concert goer, and looks forward to exploring the wider world in the years to come. I wish her the very best as she now has the time to pursue those interests, rather than being stuck in a windowless office in front of multiple computers for long hours.

Mr. President, I am one of many Members of Congress to have benefited from the advice and hard work of Chris Healey, starting with Barbara Kennelly, including NANCY PELOSI and Jane Harman, and ending with JAY ROCKEFELLER and myself. On behalf of them, and the Senate Intelligence Committee, I thank Chris Healey and wish her the very best in what I know will be a long and productive retirement from the Congress.

BRILLO PAD CENTENNIAL

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Armaly Brands on the 100th anniversary of its iconic Brillo pad product. The Brillo pad was introduced on January 13, 1913. In 1921, the manufacturing of the product was moved to a factory in London, OH, where it has been produced ever since. Brillo was a revolutionary product, as Americans transitioned from heavy cast iron cookware to aluminum pots and pans in the early 20th century.

The Brillo pad has been featured in motion pictures, songs, and households nationwide. In 1964, the Brillo pad reached the height of its cultural popularity when Andy Warhol created a series of shipping cartons highlighting the iconic logo.

Besides being a staple of the modern kitchen, the Brillo pad has also brought jobs and manufacturing to Ohio. Brillo's London factory employs over 50 Ohioans whose products are shipped around the world.

Since 2010, Brillo has been owned by Armaly Brands of Walled Lake, MI. I would like to congratulate Armaly Brands and the Brillo pad on this 100th anniversary milestone.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING ALASKA'S OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate and honor two young Alaska students who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their communities. Shaylee Rizzo of Kenai and Samuel Allred of Wasilla have just been named State Honorees in the 2013 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program, an annual honor conferred on only one high school student and one middle-level student in each State and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Rizzo earned recognition for starting a public service campaign called ''Missy the Moose Program'' to raise youth awareness of the dangers of cars hitting moose on Alaska's highways—a common occurrence in her area during the hazardous winter months. Her idea was inspired by a photograph of a local motel owner posing with an orphaned moose he had saved after its mother was killed by a car. To launch her program, Shaylee wrote and illustrated a children's book that told the story of a collision from a moose calf's perspective. Wearing a moose costume, she then visited elementary school classrooms as Missy the Moose, sharing her book with the kids and offering ideas on how to encourage their parents to watch out for Missy and her friends. With her father's help, she wrote a theme song, recorded radio announcements urging children to get their parents to slow down, and solicited local businesses to buy more air time for her announcements. Currently, she is trying to gain State of Alaska's approval to post Missy the Moose signs in high moose-traffic areas to remind motorists to drive with care.

Mr. Allred earned recognition for making travel-size pillows and distributing them to children's hospitals across the country to provide comfort to sick kids. As a toddler, he was diagnosed with a rare kidney disease that resulted in hospitalizations and the need to take medications that altered his appearance. In 2008, a video of Samuel singing went viral on YouTube and garnered millions of views—along with comments that were mostly good—but judged his appearance. He decided to start a nonprofit organization with the

goal of changing lives through compassion. In 2009, Samuel, along with friends and family members, made 300 pillows out of bright, cheerful fabric and donated them to a local children's hospital. But Samuel knew he could do even more if he got the community involved, so he began visiting local schools to talk about kindness and compassion. It wasn't long before others were helping to craft pillows for Samuel's ''Project Comfort.'' Elementary school students stuffed pillows, senior citizens stitched them closed, and middle-school students made more than 1,700 pillows. Today, many groups in Alaska are creating pillows. Samuel sends the pillows to children's hospitals throughout the United States.

Given the challenges we face today, it is important that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions that these young Alaskans have made. Youth volunteers like Ms. Rizzo and Mr. Allred are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

I thank Ms. Rizzo and Mr. Allred for their initiative in seeking to make their communities better places to live, and for the positive impact they have had on the lives of others. I also would like to salute Allison Ostrander and Reese Qualls, young people in my State who were named distinguished finalists by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for their outstanding volunteer service.

All of these young people demonstrate a level of commitment and accomplishment that is rarely seen today, and they deserve our sincere admiration and respect. Their actions show that young Americans can, and do, play important roles in their communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

Thank you for allowing me to take a moment to recognize these great young volunteers in Alaska.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on February 15, 2013, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 15. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Joint Economic Committee: Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. DUFFY of Wisconsin, Mr. AMASH of Michigan, Mr. PAULSEN of Minnesota, Mr. HANNA of New York, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. CUMMINGS of Maryland, and Mr. DELANEY of Maryland.

At 2:12 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 273. An act to eliminate the 2013 statutory pay adjustment for Federal employees.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 273. An act to eliminate the 2013 statutory pay adjustment for Federal employees; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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. SCHUMER:

S. 374. A bill to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KING, Ms. WARREN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. REED, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 375. A bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

S. 376. A bill to reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 377. A bill to add the 9/11 Health and Compensation Programs to the list of exempt programs under PAYGO; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 378. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to provide travel and transportation allowances for members of the reserve components for long distance and certain other travel to inactive duty training; 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. HARKIN:

S. Res. 38. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. Res. 39. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship for March 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013; from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. Res. 40. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Foreign Relations; from the Committee on Foreign Relations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 41. A resolution supporting the designation of March 2013, as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 6

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 6, a bill to reauthorize the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, to provide assistance to small businesses owned by veterans, to improve enforcement of employment and reemployment rights of members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

S. 119

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 119, a bill to prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. 162

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 162, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2004.

S. 169

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 169, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize additional visas for well-educated aliens to live and work in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 170

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 170, a bill to recognize the

heritage of recreational fishing, hunting, and recreational shooting on Federal public land and ensure continued opportunities for those activities.

S. 175

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 175, a bill to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to improve the use of certain registered pesticides.

S. 183

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for fairness in hospital payments under the Medicare program.

S. 190

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 190, a bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for certain activities of the National Labor Relations Board and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

S. 195

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 195, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and violence to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs.

S. 209

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 209, a bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 217

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 217, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require the Secretary of Education to collect information from coeducational elementary schools and secondary schools on such schools' athletic programs, and for other purposes.

S. 230

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 230, a bill to authorize the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 234

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 234, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 252

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 252, a bill to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity.

S. 278

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 278, a bill to replace the Budget Control Act sequester for fiscal year 2013 by eliminating tax loopholes.

S. 294

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 294, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the disability compensation evaluation procedure of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for veterans with mental health conditions related to military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 296

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. COWAN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 296, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in the immigration laws by permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships.

S. 298

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 298, a bill to prevent nuclear proliferation in North Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 315

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 315, a bill to reauthorize and extend the Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research, and Education Amendments of 2008.

S. 346

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 346, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit veterans who have a service-connected, permanent disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces entitled to such travel.

S. 369

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 369, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S.J. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 4, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to United States citizenship.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 38—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 38

Resolved, That, in carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized from March 1, 2013, through September 30, 2013, in its discretion (1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate, (2) to employ personnel, and (3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2013, through September 30, 2013, under this resolution shall not exceed $5,381,475, of which amount (1) not to exceed $75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended), and (2) not to exceed $25,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).

SEC. 3. Expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee,

except that vouchers shall not be required (1) for the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate, or (2) for the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate, or (3) for the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery, United States Senate, or (4) for payments to the Postmaster, United States Senate, or (5) for the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate, or (6) for the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services, or (7) for payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate.

SEC. 4. There are authorized such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee from March 1, 2013, through September 30, 2013, to be paid from the Appropriations account for ''Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 39—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR MARCH 1, 2013, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

Ms. LANDRIEU submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Rules and Administration; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 39

Resolved,

SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship (in this resolution referred to as the ''committee'') is authorized from March 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2013.

The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2013, through September 30, 2013, under this resolution shall not exceed $1,524,917, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $25,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 72a(i))); and

(2) not to exceed $10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).

SEC. 3. EXPENSES AND AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required—

(A) for the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(B) for the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(C) for the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;

(D) for payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;

(E) for the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(F) for the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(G) for payment of franked mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate.

(b) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee from March 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013, to be paid from the appropriations account for ''Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations'' of the Senate.

SENATE RESOLUTION 40—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MENENDEZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred from the Committee on Foreign Relations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 40

Resolved,

SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations (in this resolution referred to as the ''committee'') is authorized from March 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013, in its discretion to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2013.

The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013 under this resolution shall not exceed $3,866,195, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $100,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 72a(i))); and

(2) not to exceed $20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 3. EXPENSES AND AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required for—

(A) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(B) the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(C) the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;

(D) payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;

(E) the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(F) the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(G) the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate.

(b) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee from March 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013, to be paid from the appropriations account for ''Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations'' of the Senate.

SENATE RESOLUTION 41—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 2013, AS NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 41

Whereas colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men and women in the United States, killing more non-smokers than any other cancer;

Whereas every year it is estimated that more than 135,000 individuals in the United States are diagnosed with colorectal cancer and more than 50,000 individuals die from the disease;

Whereas colorectal cancer is one of the most highly preventable forms of cancer because screening tests can find polyps that can be removed before becoming cancerous;

Whereas screening tests can detect colorectal cancer early, when treatment works best;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that if every individual aged 50 or older had regular screening tests, as many as 60 percent of deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for patients with localized colorectal cancer is 90 percent, but only 39 percent of all diagnoses occur at this stage;

Whereas colorectal cancer screening can effectively reduce colorectal cancer incidence and mortality, yet 1 in 3 adults between the ages of 50 and 75 are not up to date with recommended colorectal cancer screening;

Whereas public awareness and education campaigns on colorectal cancer prevention, screening, and symptoms are held during the month of March each year; and

Whereas educational efforts can help provide information to the public of methods of prevention and screening, as well as about symptoms for early detection: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month; and

(2) encourages the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate awareness and educational activities.

NOTICE OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in open session on Tuesday, February 26, 2013, at 2:30 p.m. in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''State Leadership and Innovation in Disability Employment.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Alyssa Mowitz of the committee staff on (202) 228–3453.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 26, 2013, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 3:00 p.m. to conduct a business meeting to organize for the 113th Congress by electing the Chairwoman and Vice Chairman of the Committee and to adopt the rules of the Committee and any other organizational business the Committee needs to consider.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in open session on Wednesday, February 27, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''Animal Drug User Fee Agreements: Advancing Animal Health for the Public Health.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Kathleen Laird of the committee staff on (202) 224–6840.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to advise that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2013, at 10:00 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the nomination of Sally Jewell to be the Secretary of the Interior.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224–7571 or Abigail Campbell at (202) 224–4905.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet February 25, 2013.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 25, 2013.

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

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 25, 2013, from 5 to 7 p.m. in The President's Room off the Senate floor.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator MENENDEZ of New Jersey, I ask unanimous consent that Margaret Taylor be granted the privilege of the floor during the executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 7, the nomination of Robert Bacharach of Oklahoma to be U.S. circuit judge for the Tenth Circuit.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, February 26, 2013, the Senate proceed to executive session and that the motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on Executive Calendar No. 10 be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be agreed to, the time until 12:00 p.m. be equally divided in the usual form, and that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on the nomination, upon reconsideration.

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

NORTH KOREA NONPROLIFERATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2013

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 16, S. 298.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 298) to prevent nuclear proliferation in North Korea, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendments, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is shown in boldface brackets and the part of the bill intended to be inserted is shown in italic.)

S. 298

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''North Korea Nonproliferation and Accountability Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On February 12, 2013, the Government of North Korea declared that it had conducted its third test of a nuclear device, following its first self-declared test on October 9, 2006, and its second test on May 25, 2009.

(2) United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718, adopted on October 14, 2006, condemned the nuclear test proclaimed by North Korea on October 9, 2006, in flagrant disregard of its relevant resolutions, in particular Security Council Resolution 1695 (2006), and demanded that North Korea not conduct any further nuclear test or launch of a ballistic missile; immediately retract its announcement of withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, done at Washington, London, and Moscow July 1, 1968, and entered into force March 5, 1970 (NPT); and return to the NPT and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

(3) United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718 further decided that North Korea shall suspend all activities related to its ballistic missile program and in this context reestablish its pre-existing commitments to a moratorium on missile launching; shall abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner; shall act strictly in accordance with the obligations applicable to parties under the NPT and the terms and conditions of its IAEA Safeguards Agreement; shall provide the IAEA transparency measures extending beyond these requirements, including such access to individuals, documentation, equipments and facilities as may be required and deemed necessary by the IAEA; and shall abandon all other existing weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and its ballistic missile program in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner.

(4) United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718 also required United Nations Member States to prevent—

(A) transfers to, and procurement from, North Korea of—

(i) items, materials, equipment, goods, and technology listed in the resolution; and

(ii) other items, determined by the Security Council or the 1718 Committee, which could contribute to North Korea's nuclear-related, ballistic missile-related, or other weapons of mass destruction-related programs;

(B) certain military equipment or technology transfers related to the prohibited items; and

(C) the transfer of luxury goods to North Korea.

(5) United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718 further required United Nations Member States to prevent the entry into and transit through their territories of individuals designated by the Security Council or the 1718 Committee as being responsible for North Korea's ballistic missile-related, nuclear-related, or other weapons of mass destruction-related programs, and the immediate freezing of funds, other financial assets, and economic resources of persons or entities designated by the Security Council or the 1718 Committee as being engaged in or

providing support for such programs, or by persons or entities acting on their behalf or at their direction.

(6) On May 25, 2009, the Government of North Korea declared that it had conducted a second test of a nuclear device.

(7) United Nations Security Council Resolution 1874, adopted on June 12, 2009—

(A) decided that North Korea shall abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner;

(B) authorized and required United Nations Member States to seize and dispose of proscribed illicit North Korea items related to its missile, nuclear, and WMD programs identified in inspections called for by the resolution;

(C) banned the export to North Korea of all arms and related material other than small arms and light weapons; and

(D) decided that Member States shall—

(i) prevent the provision of financial services or the transfer to, through, or from their territory of any financial or other assets or resources that could contribute to North Korea's nuclear-related, ballistic missile-related, or other WMD-related programs or activities; and

(ii) deny fuel or supplies to service the vessels carrying them except where necessary on humanitarian grounds.

(8) On December 12, 2012, in flagrant defiance of past United Nations Security Council resolutions, the international community, and its Six-Party partners, the Government of North Korea launched a three-stage, long-range missile, which overflew Japanese territory near Okinawa and dropped debris into the Yellow Sea, the East China Sea, and waters adjacent to the Philippines.

(9) The United Nations Security Council adopted Security Council Resolution 2087 on January 22, 2013, which condemned North Korea's December 12, 2012, missile launch as a breach of Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874, demanded that North Korea ''abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner,'' and expressed the determination of the Security Council ''to take significant action in the event of a further DPRK launch or nuclear test''.

(10) the transition to the leadership of Kim Jong-Un after the death of Kim Jong-Il has introduced new uncertainties, yet the fundamental human rights and humanitarian conditions inside North Korea remain deplorable, thousands of North Koreans remain imprisoned in modern-day gulags, North Korean refugees remain acutely vulnerable, and the findings in the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–333; 22 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.), the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–346), and the Ambassador James R. Lilley and Congressman Stephen J. Solarz North Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–172) remain substantially accurate today.

(11) There has been extensive military cooperation between the Governments of North Korea and Iran that dates back to the 1980s.

(12) The latest provocative and defiant action by the Government of North Korea represents a direct threat to the United States and to our regional allies and partners.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the test of a nuclear device by the Government of North Korea on February 12, 2013, and the missile launch of December 12, 2012, represent flagrant violations of the sanctions regime created by United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1695 (2006), 1718 (2006), and 1874 (2009), the test of the nuclear device on February 12, 2013, is a clear, deliberate, and provocative violation of United Nations Security Resolution 2087 (2013), and the Government of North Korea continues to defy the United Nations, its Six-Party partners, and the international community;

(2) all Member States of the United Nations should immediately implement and enforce sanctions imposed by these resolutions and censure North Korea;

(3) the Government of North Korea should abandon and dismantle its provocative ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programs, cease its proliferation activities, and come into immediate compliance with all United Nations Security Council resolutions and its commitments under the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks;

(4) restrictions against the Government of North Korea, including sanctions that ban the importation into the United States of unlicensed North Korean products and goods, should remain in effect until the Government of North Korea no longer engages in activities that threaten the United States, our allies and partners, and global peace and stability;

(5) the United States Government should seek a new round of United Nations Security Council sanctions, including the public identification of all North Korean and foreign banks, business, and government agencies suspected of conduct that violates United Nations Security Council resolutions, and implementing necessary measures to ensure enforcement of such sanctions;

(6) all United Nations Member States should—

(A) further strengthen efforts to prevent the transfer of military and dual-use technologies to North Korea, including an expansion of the list of sanctioned materials identified by the United Nations Panel of Experts on North Korea sanctions and the items on the Nuclear Suppliers Group lists;

(B) exercise enhanced vigilance including monitoring the activities of their nationals, persons in their territories, financial institutions, and other entities with or on behalf of financial institutions in North Korea, or of those that act on behalf or at the direction of financial institutions in North Korea, including their branches, representatives, agents, and subsidiaries abroad; and

(C) prevent transshipments that relate to North Korean military, missile, and nuclear programs and proliferation activities;

(7) the United States Government should explore [all appropriate measures for enhanced military operations by the United States Armed Forces] *appropriate measures by the United States Armed Forces* in the Asia-Pacific region, including in partnership with the armed forces of others countries in the region, to safeguard the national interests, security, and livelihood of the United States and its people, as well as those of United States allies and partners in the region; and

(8) the United States Government, acting through its appropriate diplomatic representatives, should secure the agreement of the United Nations Human Rights Council and General Assembly to adopt the recommendations made in the February 1, 2013, report of Marzuki Darusman, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, that an inquiry mechanism should be established to investigate North Korea's ''grave, widespread and systematic violations of human rights,'' as well as to analyze whether crimes against humanity are being perpetrated in North Korea.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than May 15, 2013, the Secretary of State shall conduct, coordinate, and submit to Congress a comprehensive report on United States policy towards North Korea based on a full and complete interagency review of current policy and possible alternatives, including North Korea's weapons of mass destruction and missile programs and human rights atrocities. The report shall include recommendations for such legislative or administrative action as the Secretary considers appropriate in light of the results of the review.

SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed as a declaration of war or an authorization for the use of force against North Korea.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I further ask that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The committee amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 298) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 41, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 41) supporting the designation of March 2013, as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 41) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2013

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 26, 2013; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Senator Hagel to be Secretary of Defense, under the previous order; further, that following

the cloture vote on the Hagel nomination, upon reconsideration, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly caucus meetings; and finally, that if cloture is invoked, the time during recess, morning business, and adjournment count postcloture on the Hagel nomination.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, there will be a reconsideration of the cloture vote on the Hagel nomination at noon tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:32 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 26, 2013, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate, February 25, 2013:

THE JUDICIARY

ROBERT E. BACHARACH, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONDEMNING NORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR TEST

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 65 and to thank Representatives ROYCE, ENGEL and ROS-LEHTINEN for their leadership on this important issue and for working together to bring this bipartisan resolution to the floor today. H. Res. 65 condemns the government of North Korea for its flagrant and repeated violations of multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions, for its repeated provocations that threaten international peace and for its test of a nuclear device on February 12, 2013.

Since 2006, the U.N. Security Council has passed three resolutions condemning North Korea for its illegal missile tests, most recently the resolution passed last month. Then, on Tuesday, in further defiance of U.N. resolutions, the North Korean government detonated an underground nuclear device. Taken together, these events are clear indications of North Korea's flagrant disregard for international law, regional stability and for the welfare of its own people.

Instead of feeding the millions of North Koreans who are starving, the government chooses to squander what little resources it possesses on an illegal nuclear weapons program. Its actions are reckless and dangerous and the international community cannot stand by silently as it continues to oppress its people to deny their human rights and political liberties and to permit them to suffer material deprivation just so that they can pursue a nuclear weapons program at their expense.

I stand with my colleagues in condemnation of the government of North Korea for its reckless disregard for international law, for threat its actions pose to the stability of the region and for its contempt for the welfare of its own people. And I call on China, as a party of the Six-Party Talks and the closest ally of North Korea, to use its considerable influence to encourage the North Koreans to abandon their illegal nuclear weapons program.

IN RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN ACTION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 40 years of service by Community Christian Action (CCA) to North Texans in need. CCA was founded February 22, 1973 when seven members of the Bible study group at St. Philip's Catholic Church in Lewisville committed to spreading God's word by helping those less fortunate. This faith-based non-profit organization started learning about poverty and ways to improve peoples' lives through their local church congregations.

Over 35 years later, CCA has expanded their outreach of help with the support of volunteers, families, churches and local businesses to 42 communities throughout Collin, Dallas, Denton, Tarrant, and Wise counties. With 150 employees and more than 2,500 volunteers, the ministry strives to give families in crisis the education and training they need to become self-sufficient while offering a safe haven of food, shelter, medical care, and spiritual support.

In one year, CCA assists more than 12,000 individuals. They distribute more than $1.4 million of food, provide more than 4,000 low-income patients health care in their center each year, and offer educational and vocational training programs that more than 1,660 people participate in annually. CCA ensures that more than 57,000 lunches are delivered to kids during the summer, and that 2,900 children get to experience each holiday season with Christmas toys.

It is my honor to recognize Community Christian Action and their efforts to help North Texans.

HONORING JUSTICE BERNETTE JOSHUA JOHNSON

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the continued achievements of Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson, a leader in the Louisiana community. I congratulate Justice Johnson on her pending investiture as Chief Justice of Louisiana's Supreme Court, on which she has served with distinction for nearly two decades. As the most–tenured member of Louisiana's highest court, Bernette Joshua Johnson will continue her legacy of excellence as the state's first African American Chief Justice. Her investiture is an important one for her career as a civil servant, for the state of Louisiana, and for the United States.

Before her service on Louisiana's Supreme Court, Justice Johnson began her career as the first woman to be elected to the Civil District Court of New Orleans and was elected Chief Judge soon after. A cornerstone of her career has always been advocacy for civil rights and social justice. During the Civil Rights Movement, she worked as a community organizer with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Legal Defense & Educational Fund. She also worked as a legal intern with the Civil Rights Division at the US Department of Justice, here in Washington, D.C. where she worked on cases filed by the Department to implement the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson has received numerous honors and awards throughout her career, including the Louisiana Bar Foundation's 2009 Distinguished Jurist Award, the American Bar Association's Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, and the 2000 Medal of Honor presented by the Mayor of the City of New Orleans. In addition, she has spoken at universities and government agencies all over Louisiana and throughout the south. Justice Johnson is a prolific writer having published editorials, essays, and legal opinions since the beginning of her legal career.

Justice Johnson is a community advocate, an active member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and the proud mother of two. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, and in 2001 was honored with an Honorary Doctorate in Law from her alma mater. She was one of the first African American women to attend the Law School at Louisiana State University where she received her Juris Doctorate in 1969. She has since been inducted into the LSU Law School Hall of Fame. Justice Johnson's achievements are a testament to her commitment to public service. She is an excellent example of the value of hard work and perseverance in the face of adversity.

I wish to congratulate Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson on her investiture as the Louisiana Supreme Court's first African American Chief Justice.

ELIMINATION OF 2013 PAY ADJUSTMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is nothing more than an attempt to penalize hardworking federal employees who are doing our nation's business. I support extending the freeze on Congressional pay, but there is no reason we should block federal civil servants from receiving a partial COLA of a ½ of 1 percent.

Federal workers have already contributed $103 billion toward lowering our deficit through pay freezes and increases in their retirement contributions. A full pay freeze for a third year in a row would take another $11 billion out of the pockets of these dedicated public servants.

And let's be clear: this bill does not cut spending by one dime because it does not change the overall spending caps. As a result, these dollars will be spent elsewhere in the budget. So while this bill does nothing to reduce the deficit, it does punish people doing essential work for our country. It punishes: Nurses caring for our wounded warriors; the FBI agents who helped rescue the young boy in Alabama; air traffic controllers who keep our skies safe to fly; scientists doing lifesaving medical research; meat and food inspectors

who keep our food safe; the individuals who helped get the intelligence to track down Osama bin Laden; and the individuals who keep our border safe, ensure Social Security payments arrive on time, and so many others who do the work of America.

All that is bad enough. At the same time, this bill does nothing to avoid the hit to the economy and jobs that will begin on March 1, just over two weeks from today.

I want everyone to remember two numbers. First, 750,000. That is the number of jobs that will be lost between March 1 and the end of the year if we don't stop the sequester. This number doesn't come from me; it comes from the nonpartisan, independent Congressional Budget Office, CBO.

That job loss is equal to wiping out all the job gains from October 1 of last year through last month—5 months—of job gains. Additionally, the sequester will cut economic growth this year one-third. So, we should prevent this needless action from taking place. And House Democrats have repeatedly offered a plan to do so.

The second number to remember is 4. That is the number of times Democrats have tried to get a vote on our plan to replace the sequester with the same amount of long term deficit reduction without hurting jobs or the economy. Our Republicans colleagues have not lifted a finger in the 113th Congress to prevent these impending job losses.

In fact, Tea Party Republicans like Senator RAND PAUL are cheering for this job cleaver to come down.

Our plan would replace the $120 billion sequester for the remainder of the year, with an equal amount of long-term deficit reduction without harming jobs and disrupting the economy.

The key elements of our plan are as follows: cut direct payment subsidies to agribusiness by $29 billion; cut Big Oil tax subsidies by $38 billion; implement the Buffet Rule, which brings in $54 billion in revenue. That totals $121 billion of offsetting deficit reduction that won't hurt the economy or kill jobs.

So instead of penalizing hard working federal employees, let's focus on preventing the loss of 750,000 American jobs and let's pass the Stop the Sequester Job Loss Act now.

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE NONPROFIT FAIRNESS ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 592.

In this country, we have a strong tradition of coming to the aid of communities that have suffered national tragedies and natural disasters. This is a tradition to be proud of, but H.R. 592 takes an unprecedented and unconstitutional step of adding houses of worship to the list of entities eligible for direct government assistance through Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled that direct government aid for houses of worship is unconstitutional. In Tilton v. Richardson (1971) and Committee for Public Education v. Nyquist (1973), the Supreme Court ruled that taxpayer funds could not go to buildings to construct or repair facilities intended to be places of worship. Religious institutions are still eligible for federal loans, including small business loans, to help rebuild their place of worship.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote in a later ruling (Mitchell v. Helms, 2000), that direct grant government grants to religious institutions brings "special dangers." This danger is not just to the government, but also to the religious institution. Religious freedom is one of our country's most sacred principles. The separation of church and state protects not only the state, but also the church from state interference and restriction. This type of direct assistance, however well intentioned, puts that separation and religious freedom at risk.

Churches, synagogues, temples and mosques are often the center of a community; the wish to rebuild as quickly as possible in the wake of a natural disaster is well-intentioned and understandable. However, rebuilding or repairing these houses of worship with direct government assistance, putting their independence at risk, comes at too high of a cost.

HONORING MS. DELEIGH DANIEL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable volunteer firefighter, Ms. Deleigh Daniel.

Ms. Daniel wanted to become a firefighter after hearing her ex-husband speak about his experiences and the importance of being able to save a life or someone's home. In 2007, she joined the Linn Steiner Roundaway Volunteer Fire Department where she is one of two female firefighters. In 2009, she joined the Indianola Volunteer Fire Department where she is the first female firefighter.

Ms. Daniel's greatest satisfaction as a volunteer firefighter is knowing the benefit of saving lives, businesses, personal property, and the educating others on fire prevention and safety techniques.

Her children, Claire and Clay are supportive of their mother being a firefighter and being able to fulfill her life's goal. Ms. Daniel lives her life by this motto, "I can accomplish anything I set my mind to".

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Deleigh Daniel for her dedication to serving her community and our great country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 43 "Providing for the conditional adjournment of the House and Senate" (H. Con. Res. 15). Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

REMEMBERING AMBASSADOR MAX M. KAMPELMAN

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, last month I lost a dear friend, and our nation lost a tireless public servant who spent his career keeping Americans—and, indeed, the world—safe from the threat of nuclear war.

Ambassador Max M. Kampelman never held elected office, and most Americans may not know of the impact he had on their security. But he played a crucial role in advising leaders from both parties during the Cold War and in helping to negotiate the first Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty in 1991. He died on January 25 at the age of ninety-two.

Born in 1920 in New York City, New York, Max was the son of Jewish immigrants who taught their son the importance of education and the value of hard work. After graduating from New York University in 1940, he attended night school there in pursuit of his law degree, which he earned in 1945.

During World War II, Max volunteered for an experimental study on the effects of recovering from starvation and malnutrition, the findings of which were later used to treat concentration camp survivors and former prisoners of war. Following the end of the war, he obtained a master's degree and doctorate in political science from the University of Minnesota, and while there he began working as an aide to then-mayor of Minneapolis Hubert Humphrey.

When Humphrey was sworn in as a United States Senator in 1949, Max came with him to Washington as his legislative counsel. After six years with Senator Humphrey, Max went into private law practice and joined the Marine Corps Reserves. In 1968, he advised Vice President Humphrey's presidential campaign.

Growing alarmed by the Soviet Union's foreign policies and human rights violations in the early 1970s, Max became a proponent of a tougher Cold War stance. He was brought on to advise the Reagan Administration and led the negotiations for the Madrid Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe that were the key forum in the early 1980s for raising human rights concerns in the Soviet bloc and that led to the release of some prisoners of conscience and refuseniks from the U.S.S.R.

At the Madrid conference and throughout the 1980s, Max Kampelman advocated a concept we now take for granted—the notion that human rights are an integral element of international security. As former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton noted, Max "advanced with unmatched eloquence and effectiveness the precept that respect for human rights within nations is essential to cooperation and peace among nations."

Max was instrumental in the drafting of the first START treaty to limit nuclear arms stockpiles at the end of the Cold War, helping to ease tensions between the superpowers during the days of communism's collapse in the former Soviet Union.

Testifying to Max's beliefs in putting country before party, and indicative of the respect leaders on both sides of the aisle felt for him, in 1984 he served concurrently as a foreign

policy advisor for Democratic presidential nominee Walter Mondale and as counsel to Edwin Meese III, one of President Reagan's closest aides.

Throughout his years in Washington, Max left his deep imprint on the city and its community. He was a founder of the DC National Bank, a chairman of WETA–TV, and founding president of Friends of the National Zoo. For many years, Max was an active supporter of Jewish community organizations, such as the Anti-Defamation League, the American Friends of Lubavitch, and others. In 1989, Max received the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Reagan, and, ten years later, President Clinton awarded Max the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

I came to know Max well when I served as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission in the 1980s, and we worked together on human rights and disarmament issues. In the process, we became great friends. Max led the U.S. Delegation to a Human Dimension meeting of the Helsinki process in Copenhagen in 1990, where, thanks in no small part to his able stewardship, breakthrough achievements were reached on democracy, the rule of law, and free and fair elections. A year later, he led a U.S. delegation to another Human Dimension meeting in Moscow—on the heels of the August 1991 Soviet coup attempt—and negotiated an agreement explicitly recognizing that human rights are the direct and legitimate concern of all countries.

Max was a true believer in the power of diplomacy to shape a safer, freer, and more just world, and he will be missed terribly by all those in Washington and throughout the country who came to know him as I did—smart, thoughtful, and creative in the pursuit of a better life for all.

Marjorie, Max's wife of fifty-eight years, passed away in 2007, and they were preceded in death by two of their children, David and Anne. Max is survived by their three remaining children, Jeffrey, Julia, and Sarah, along with five grandchildren.

I join in saluting Ambassador Max Kampelman's life of service to our nation as a diplomat, as a Marine Reserve officer, as a philanthropist, and as a model citizen. The furtherance of peace in our world and freedom for millions who had suffered behind the Iron Curtain will be his lasting legacy.

IN HONOR OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 88

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Audubon's Boy Scout Troop 88. This troop was founded in 1965 by Eagle Scout Chairman Bob Beetle, along with Al Murray, Joe Kranz, Bill Holland, and Jack Rex. At last Thanksgiving's Audubon football game, the troop and the tireless work of the founder Bob Beetle, was honored as the Troop 88 banner was dedicated and raised at halftime. The true legacy of Mr. Beetle and this troop is the perpetuation of resourceful skills and the instillation of strong leadership values. The boy scouts are an outstanding opportunity for the young gentlemen of South Jersey to develop through service to their community. Troop 88 initiates many projects within the community including: Food Drives and help with the South Jersey Food bank, a 9/11 Ceremony at Mt. Ephriam, railroad clean-ups, the Mansion Ave. school map playground project, and Masons Wheel chair Push in Burlington. On behalf of town of Audubon, and the First District of New Jersey, I want to express my sincere appreciation and pride to have such a great organization operating in my district.

HONORING TOMMY TRAXLER, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, Tommy Traxler, Jr. Mr. Traxler has shown what can be done through hard work, setting goals, and aiming high.

Tommy Traxler, Jr., was born January 17, 1945 in Crystal Springs, Mississippi to the late Charlean Traxler and Tommy Traxler, Sr. He was reared by his grandmother, the late Gussie Hudson.

He was a 1963 graduate of William H. Holtzclaw Memorial High School in Crystal Springs, Mississippi and 1965 graduate of Utica Junior College, Utica, Mississippi. On September 6, 1966, Tommy was killed in Vietnam.

Tommy had two siblings; one brother, Charles E. Pickett and one sister, Cynthia Traxler of Crystal Springs, Mississippi. His hobbies included football, basketball and drawing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tommy Traxler, Jr. for his dedication to serving our great country and his community.

MADISON COUNTY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate Madison County on its 100th anniversary as an organized county in the great state of Idaho. Significant events over the past century have made for a colorful history, and this commemoration is a noteworthy event for both past and present residents of Madison County.

Madison County, located in Idaho's Upper Snake River Valley, was officially established February 18, 1913, by signature of Governor John Haines, with its county seat at Rexburg. The new county was named for President James Madison, fourth president of the United States. The region was first settled by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, (Mormons) from nearby Utah. Early families were industrious farmers who built the first irrigation system in the state. Madison County is now the eighth largest potato growing county in the nation and also grows significant acres of grain.

Brigham Young University Idaho, formerly Ricks College, now the second largest university in Idaho, was named after one of the early settlers, Thomas E. Ricks. Madison County was declared a national disaster area after the ruinous Teton Dam flood of June 5, 1976.

Sugar City is another thriving city in Madison County, located only a few miles from the county seat. The four federally protected areas in the county are: Caribou Targhee National Forest, Cartier Slough and Deer Parks Wildlife Areas, and the volcanic Menan Twin Buttes.

Visitors to Madison County can tour two buildings listed on the National Historic Register: The Rexburg Tabernacle and the Madison County Courthouse. Other attractions include the Teton Dam Flood Museum, Yellowstone Bear World, Brigham Young University Idaho Campus, the Idaho Centennial Carousel, and the famous International Dance Festival.

The citizens of Madison County demonstrate unity and a sense of pride through their deeply sown roots. Family traditions, farms, entrepreneurship, and a willingness to extend a helping hand to others appropriately characterize this community and its time-honored Idaho lifestyle.

It is a privilege to represent Madison County and the people who structure its prominence.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF PHEASANTS FOREVER

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the founders, members and staff of Pheasants Forever on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the organization.

The Minnesota roots of this organization go back to day one and its 500 original members in the early 1980s. Residents of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District share great pride that for most of those years, the organization has worked to protect the habitat for this beautiful bird throughout North America from its home base in White Bear Lake. Today, Pheasants Forever boasts more than 125,000 members in more than 600 chapters in both the U.S. and Canada, from Pennsylvania to Washington and Minnesota to Texas.

Minnesota has a long and distinguished history of wildlife conservation, and is the birthplace of several organizations dedicated to protecting wildlife and other natural resources. Born out of a crisis when our state suffered a dramatic decline in pheasant numbers, Pheasants Forever is a vital part of this proud tradition. The organization first took flight when a group of conservation minded hunters rose to meet the challenge presented by Dennis Anderson, St Paul Pioneer Press outdoor editor, as he wrote about the devastation of grassland habitat in Minnesota.

The grassroots origins of Pheasants Forever have remained critical to its success, and each chapter is empowered to determine how their funds are used. Members directly participate in the decisionmaking process and see firsthand the conservation impact of their contributions. Over the years, this strategy has produced real progress in protecting habitat.

In 1985, members of Pheasants Forever helped form the Conservation Reserve Program, CRP, as part of the Department of Agriculture. The CRP implemented a land set-aside program that paid landowners to keep their environmentally sensitive areas unused, creating more natural habitat for pheasants and other wildlife.

To this day, Pheasants Forever continues to work closely with the Department of Agriculture, partnering with USDA service centers and local landowners to create and improve vital habitat on private lands. More recently, Pheasants Forever launched the ''Build a Wildlife'' program to create public hunting grounds and outdoor recreation areas. In 2005, Quail Forever launched to focus on improving habitats for quail populations. To date, Pheasant Forever's various initiatives have protected and improved more than 8 million acres of wildlife habitat. These significant achievements have reversed the trend toward vanishing grasslands, and made Minnesota a premier example of upland habitat conservation.

Mr. Speaker, I honor the 30th anniversary of Pheasants Forever and the hunters and outdoor enthusiasts who make this organization successful.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAVAS TSIVICOS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Savas Tsivicos as he is celebrared-by AHEPA Chapter #287 with a Testimonial Dinner in his honor. As Past President of the Chapter and Past District Governor of AHEPA District 5, Savas is truly deserving of this recognition.

A native of Cyprus, Savas immigrated to the United States in 1982 to pursue educational and work opportunities. He earned a Bachelor's Degree and MBA in Management from Fairleigh Dickinson University and a Masters Certificate from George Washington University. In 1989, Savas founded Tsivicos Enterprises, Inc., a consulting and construction management company, and continues to serve as its President today.

Active in the Greek community, Savas has been a tireless advocate for the people of Cyprus. He co-founded the Panpaphian Association of America in 1987 and twice served as its President. He also served as Chairman of the American Hellenic Institute Public Affairs Committee for 3 years. In addition, Savas has been a member of countless other Greek organizations, often holding leadership positions, including the Cyprus Federation of America, which represents all Cypriot Americans. Likewise, Savas has served on the Board of Directors for the NJ Greek-American Chamber of Commerce and Cosmos FM, a Hellenic public radio station. Savas also serves on the Cyprus Children's Fund and is an active member of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Ocean, NJ.

Savas has received many awards for his tremendous work on behalf of the community. In 1988, the Government of Cyprus recognized his contributions with a Certificate of Recognition. He has also been honored with the Greek-American Chamber of Commerce of NJ Achievement Award, the NECO Ellis Island Medal of Honor Award, and the Evagoras Pallikarides Award of Merit. Savas has twice been recognized as Ahepan of the Year, first by the John G. Thevos Fifth District and most recently by Chapter #287.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Savas Tsivicos for his immeasurable contributions to the community and thanking AHEPA Chapter #287 for hosting the Testimonial Dinner in his honor.

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR DANNEL P. MALLOY AT THE INTERFAITH VIGIL FOR FAMILIES OF SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of the lives lost at Sandy Hook Elementary School. I submit the remarks of Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy, at the Interfaith Vigil for the families and community of Newtown, CT with the President of the United States.

Pat, thank you for all of the great work that you have done for this community in the last three days. To the police chief and to the superintendent of schools, thank you for your great service, as well. To all of the first responders, thank you.

When I came into the hall, one of the first songs to be played on the piano was ''Amazing Grace,'' which is fitting for any number of reasons. Its become an anthem for first responders. It has great words. It also speaks of the power of faith.

''Amazing Grace'' was written by a former sea captain engaged in the slave trade. And those profound words that ''I once was lost and now am found'' speak to us on a day like today when we are called upon—dare I say required to be invested in our faith.

A faith so evident in this room and in this community at this time. A faith that is, after all, at its very core a gift from God. A faith in which we find comfort and hope and compassion. A faith in which we are given the power to go on, to survive that which has befallen this community, these families, these spouses. That which has happened and is unimaginable and unthinkable and was never, we thought, intended to be upon us here in Connecticut, or in Newtown, or in Sandy Hook.

I choose to think about the fact that in the coming days we will officially enter winter. And that is always to be followed by the spring. Let me assure you that in winter, each time I see the beginning of a snowfall, I will be thinking of those 27 souls lost just a few days ago.

Each time the day gets a little longer, I will think and dream of the lives that might have been and the lives that were so full of grace. And when the flowers start to come out of the ground, and when they rise up, I will know that we are in touch with those that we have lost in the last few days.

We will go on, we will find strength. Faith is a gift, as is our ability to support one another in our greater community.

To all of you, I extend my most profound condolences on behalf of all of your fellow citizens for what you have seen, for what you have witnessed and for what have you personally experienced.

We will move on, we will never forget, we will in many ways be made stronger for what has transpired and we will get better.

We are blessed today to have with us the President of the United States, who upon meeting with Pat and me just a little while ago said that the most difficult day of his presidency was Friday, when he heard the news of that which had befallen this community. I assured him that Connecticut, Newtown and Sandy Hook are strong, and I welcomed him on your behalf to our community.

I now introduce the President of the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues and people all over the world in recognizing the tragedy known as the Khojaly Massacre which occurred on February 26, 1992 in the small Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. The attack resulted in the massacre of 613 Azerbaijani civilians and is one of the most devastating acts of violence in the South Caucasus in recent history. According to some accounts, the fate of 150 Khojaly inhabitants is still unknown, even after twenty–one years.

The numerous casualties and acts of torture in the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan underscore the need for a political–rather than a military–solution to the Nagorno–Karabakh conflict. A fair and comprehensive settlement is the only effective tool to encourage stability, prosperity, and a lasting peace in the region. As co–chair of the Minsk Group, the United States remains committed to working with both sides to that end. With that goal in mind, we remember and mourn the 613 victims of Khojaly and work together to safeguard the human rights of all.

HONORING THE JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Jackson, Mississippi Fire Department. The Jackson Fire Department is the largest fire department in the State of Mississippi. The Jackson Fire Department currently consists of 7 divisions with 433 budgeted positions. The 7 divisions that make up the Jackson Fire Department are Administration and Finance; Arson and Internal Affairs; Community Relations and Fire Safety Education; Emergency Services; Training, Safety, Research and Development; Office of the Fire Marshal; and Fire Loss.

Emergency Services is the largest division which consists of 21 fire stations and 32 pieces of emergency equipment. In 2006, they upgraded all of their Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBA) along with new ultralite facepieces. The Jackson Fire Department constantly strives for improvement and the highest level of firefighting by updating and purchasing

the latest firefighting equipment and technology such as thermal cameras, chemical detectors, weather stations, portable radios, TSI Portacount Plus Respirator fit testers, Scott Eagle Imagers, video conference systems, Lifepak AEDs, and personal protective gear.

In April 2006, the Jackson Fire Department sponsored an Urban Search and Rescue class, which enhances their ability to serve the City of Jackson and any other city in times of immediate need. In the summer of 2006, the Jackson Fire Department received 7 new fire trucks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Jackson Fire Department for their dedication to serving the citizens of Jackson, Mississippi.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF FLOYD WEAVER

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the public service of Floyd Weaver.

Floyd Weaver's family first moved to Stockton, CA in 1938 from Phoenix, Arizona. After attending local schools in Stockton, he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. A proud veteran, he then dedicated his life to the social, educational, and economic advancement of community members in Northern California.

Mr. Weaver retired from the Stockton Unified School District after more than three decades of service as both a teacher and an administrator. Mr. Weaver was the first African American male principal in the Stockton Unified School District.

In addition, he served on the Stockton City Council and was also the first African American to be a two-term vice mayor for the city. In recognition of his hard work on the city council, local commissions, and his political activism, Mr. Weaver was honored with a lifetime achievement award by the Stockton Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 2006.

One of Mr. Weaver's proudest accomplishments was overseeing construction of the Martin Luther King Jr. plaza in downtown Stockton while he was vice mayor. He was also instrumental in changing the name of Charter Way in Stockton to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

As our nation celebrates African American History Month, it is important that we recognize local heroes who helped shape our communities and states for the better. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the public service contributions of Floyd Weaver.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM D. LAUNDRY

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 43-year career and service of a constituent and my friend, William D. Laundry of the State University of New York in Plattsburgh, New York, and to congratulate him on his retirement. Mr. Laundry has served countless numbers of New York's college students in a variety of different roles at SUNY Plattsburgh, ultimately retiring as the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

For more than four decades, Mr. Laundry has devoted his life to ensuring students at SUNY Plattsburgh gain an education that prepares them to lead our society. As Director of Residence Life, Director of Campus Life, Dean of Students, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Mr. Laundry has served as a valuable counselor and confidant to his students, guiding them through the most formative parts of college and helping them understand the lessons life teaches outside the classroom.

Mr. Laundry's influence in the Plattsburgh community spills beyond the border of the SUNY Plattsburgh campus. Whether he was officiating an alumni couple's wedding, helping a recent graduate land her dream job, or connecting an eager student to a new perspective in his service-learning experience, William Laundry has helped make our community a more vibrant and better place.

I have known Mr. Laundry personally for more than 20 years. He deserves recognition for his outstanding character and warm sense of humor, and most of all for his consistent dedication to the students, alumni, and the university, the spirit of which is etched deeply in his soul.

I wish Mr. Laundry well in what I am sure will be an active retirement. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him and wishing him success in his next endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO LINDA LEVINE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Linda Levine, on her more than 30 years of outstanding service to our nation. Ms. Levine, who is retiring on February 28, 2013, has served as a Specialist in Labor Economics for the Congressional Research Service (CRS). She is the model of a dedicated public servant.

Linda received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University and a Master's degree in Labor and Industrial Relations from Michigan State University.

Linda began her career in federal service in 1976 as a labor economist at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, followed by her service as a research economist at the Communications Workers of America. Linda joined the Congressional Research Service in 1982, where she has worked for more than 30 years. During that time, Linda assisted Congress with dozens of reports, countless memoranda, and numerous consultations with Congressional staff and Members of Congress. Linda also served as Section Head of the Labor and Industries Section at CRS.

Linda's first report at CRS, entitled ''The Impact of Defense Spending on Employment,'' was as relevant then as it is today. Her last report traces changes in the real value of the minimum wage. In between, Linda drafted analyses on older workers, younger workers, women in the labor force, pay equity, unemployment, job growth, and inequality. She also wrote reports on leave benefits, worker safety, green jobs, offshoring, the chained CPI, immigration policy, and many other subjects.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Linda Levine and in extending our nation's gratitude to her for her honorable and productive service. I know that we will all miss her significant contributions to the important labor economic issues of our country and wish her well in the years to come.

SCHOOL SAFETY

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the important issue of school safety. The tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut shocked and saddened us all. We must learn from this deplorable incident so our children and educators know their school is the one place they should feel the safest.

As we grapple with Newtown and other school tragedies, we have to discuss how these incidents could have been prevented and what steps should be taken to prevent something like Sandy Hook from happening again. As a former federal law enforcement agent, I recognize that our schools must be safe and secure, and I welcome this important discussion. I strongly believe that we must examine ways we can protect our schools through responsible security protocols, barriers, and training.

However, I must share my objection to the idea of allowing educators to carry weapons in schools. As a supporter of the Second Amendment, my objection has nothing to do with gun rights. I object to this proposal because our schools are—and must remain—a safe haven for teaching and learning. School administrators, teachers, counselors, nurses and the many other support professionals all have unique roles and responsibilities for ensuring a productive learning environment for children in their schools. We should not diminish the importance of allowing teachers to teach, principals to lead, and counselors and nurses to care by also asking that they serve as armed security.

HONORING ANNIE LARRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous woman of the community, Mrs. Annie Larry.

Annie Larry, a lifelong resident of Rolling Fork, MS was born August 4, 1962. She is the sixth of ten children born to the late Mariah and Herman Larry. Annie has been married to Nathaniel Pinkins for twenty-six years, and they have four children.

Mrs. Larry graduated from Rolling Fork High School in 1981. She went on to receive an Associate Degree in 1983 from Mississippi Delta Community College. In 2009 Annie became the first female volunteer firewoman in Rolling Fork, MS.

Annie is the Founder and President of the gospel group, Southern Truth, of which she started 17 years ago. She is a member of House of Peace, under the leadership of Apostle Linda Sweezer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Annie Larry for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the community she grew up in.

IN HONOR OF THE PATRIOT CLUB OF CHERRY HILL HIGH SCHOOL WEST

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Patriot Club of Cherry Hill High School West. The Patriot Club focuses on bringing together students and members of the local community to honor current and former servicemembers through their Veteran's Day and Donations for Soldiers programs.

The Veteran's Day program gives veterans the ability to share their service experiences at schools throughout Cherry Hill. Each November, members of the Patriot Club recruit veterans to take part in the program that gives students the opportunity to gain a better understanding and appreciation for the sacrifices made by military personnel.

The two-month-long Donations for Soldiers program gathers monetary and supply donations from students, parents, teachers, administrators and local businesses of Cherry Hill to create care packages that are distributed to soldiers currently serving in Afghanistan and other parts of the world.

In 2012, the Patriot Club recruited five schools to participate in the program, raising more than $4,000 and enough supplies to send 90 care packages overseas. This year, the club will be expanding the program to include all 18 schools in the Cherry Hill district. The goal is to raise $10,000 and to send 200 care packages to soldiers abroad.

For the past two years, Ray Horner has served as President of the Patriot Club. Senior Sean Bivins and Junior President-Elect Eytan Gittler have served as Co-Vice Presidents. Officers include Seniors Chris Blandy, Kevin Mullarkey, Sean Mullarkey and Conor McFadden. Freshman Rebecca Horner also volunteers with the club.

NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK 2013

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Invasive Species Awareness Week, which will be observed this year from March 3 through March 8.

Invasive plant and animal species are dangerous to regional ecosystems and carry with them serious negative effects on our economy. Already, they are a threat to 50% of federally endangered or threatened native species. From reduced crop yields to declines in fish populations, the consequences of invasive species are significant. In the agriculture sector alone, they have led to an annual loss in productivity worth $7.4 billion. Researchers estimate that invasive species cost the United States more than $130 billion in damages every year.

National Invasive Species Awareness Week, which is sponsored by the Weed Sciences Society of America, Dow AgroSciences, the National Network of Invasive Plant Centers, the Entomological Society of America, APS, and the Wildlife Habitat Council, helps raise public consciousness about this important issue. It features workshops and panel discussions at the Capitol and around Washington with experts in invasive species containment and prevention methods—as well as educational programs for students and families.

National Invasive Species Awareness Week also highlights the work of local, state, federal, and tribal agencies as well as efforts by private organizations and individuals to combat invasive species and preserve local and regional ecosystems.

In the State of Maryland, we have forged strong partnerships to try to address the problems posed by invasive species in our state. The Maryland Invasive Species Council is comprised of concerned scientists, land managers, business people and citizens. It works closely with our state agencies and the United States Department of Agriculture, particularly the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, the United States Department of the Interior, and the University of Maryland. Committed partnerships such as these are an important part of focusing attention and sharing limited resources in an effort to reduce the spread of invasive plants, animals, and diseases.

I am proud to support the goals of National Invasive Species Awareness Week, and I join with many of my colleagues in Congress in wishing its sponsors and participants a successful program.

RECOGNIZING THE SHEETZ FAMILY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sheetz Family which owns a convenience store chain, based in Altoona, Pennsylvania. For more than 60 years, the Sheetz name has represented entrepreneurship, vision and innovation. And while consumer needs and lifestyles have changed over the years, one thing that has remained constant is the Sheetz Family's commitment to its customers, employees and the communities in which they operate.

Sheetz, Inc. was founded by Bob Sheetz in 1952 when he purchased one of his father's five dairy stores in Altoona. In 1961, Bob hired his brother Steve to work part-time at the store. It was not until 1963 that the second store was opened under the name "Sheetz Kwik Shopper." In 1972, the brothers literally doubled the size of the company, expanding from seven to fourteen stores. One year later, Sheetz added gasoline pumps and introduced self-serve gasoline to Central Pennsylvania.

By 1983, Bob and Steve had opened 100 stores. The following year, Bob retired and handed over the leadership of the company to his trusted business partner and brother Steve. In 1995, Stan Sheetz, Bob's son, became president and Steve assumed the position of Chairman of the Board. To this day, Sheetz maintains a unique and successful family business with five family members serving on the Executive Committee.

Since 1952, Sheetz has grown from a small dairy/deli in Altoona, PA, to one of the fastest growing family-owned convenience stores in the world, with more than 437 locations across six states—Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio and North Carolina—and more than 14,500 employees. The company manufactures its own unique Sheetz brand food products; it consistently is listed as one of the "Best Places to Work" in state surveys; and it donates hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to programs like the Special Olympics and Make-A-Wish Foundation through its corporate Sheetz Family Charities organization.

The Sheetz Family will be honored February 23, 2013 with the Respected Citizen Award by the Central Blair Recreation Commission and the Booker T. Washington Revitalization Committee in Altoona. I congratulate the family on this recognition, applaud them for their extraordinary contributions to the community and thank them for the positive impact their company has on the economy.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF THE MONSIGNOR FARRELL DIVISION #2 CHAPTER OF THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, Saturday, February 23, marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Monsignor Farrell Division #2 Chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, located in Carbondale, PA. I rise to congratulate this important Chapter of the Order on this high accomplishment. I also congratulate four founding members of the organization for their foresight in the formation of this Chapter and for their continued support of the work of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. In 1973, Mr. Jerome Brennan, the Honorable James Munley, Attorney Robert Munley and William Pryle founded this Chapter and dedicated it to charitable works, the preservation of Irish culture in America, and the education of the next generation of students about the contributions of Irish immigrants throughout our nation's history.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is America's oldest Irish Catholic Fraternal Organization; it was founded concurrently in the coal-mining regions of Pennsylvania and in New York City in May 1836. The organization provided invaluable support to the vast influx of Irish immigrants fleeing the Great Hunger in

the late 1840s, offering both economic aid as well as an introduction to a new culture of opportunity in America. The members of the Order were among the first to welcome new immigrants to their communities, preserving many of the old traditions of a far-away homeland while simultaneously introducing new traditions that were part of a uniquely American experience.

The Monsignor Farrell Division #2 Chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and its founders exemplify the core principles of charity, concern for our fellow man, and commitment to educating students about the sacrifices and accomplishments of prior generations. On this momentous occasion, please accept my congratulations and my gratitude for your continuing service to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 44 "To eliminate the 2013 statutory pay adjustment for Federal employees" (H.R. 273). Had I been present, I would have voted "No."

HONORING JIM MATTHEWS, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, John Matthews, Jr. He is a lifelong resident of the Mississippi Delta.

Mr. Matthews was drafted to serve in the United States Army after graduating from Alcorn State University and becoming a licensed educator.

Mr. Matthews served during the time of the Vietnam Conflict and was a member of the 258th Personnel Service Company and the 30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade. He earned the rank of Sergeant Major and after serving our country for 30 years he retired with an Honorable Discharge. Upon completion of his tour of duty, Mr. Matthews returned to the Mississippi Delta and was a business manager, educator and cancer research assistant.

Mr. Matthews has stated that his service to America taught him discipline and leadership skills, and gave him the opportunity to travel and interact with various ethnic groups around the world.

Mr. Matthews wanted to continue his contact with fellow veterans so he became a member of the American Legion Post 206 in Indianola, Mississippi. In 2010 he was elected to serve as Vice Commander of VFW Post 206. He serves in other leadership roles as Chairman of the Sunflower Humphreys Counties Progress, Inc; Head Start Policy Council; Chairman of the Sunflower County Democratic Executive Committee; Community representative of the Sunflower County Crime Stoppers Program and Deacon at Bell Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. Matthews is married to Ms. Gwendolyn Goines-Matthews. His life motto is from Robert E. Lee: "First be sure you're right, and then proceed".

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. John Matthews for his dedication to serving our great country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CAMPUS SEXUAL VIOLENCE ELIMINATION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination (SaVE) Act. This bill will close a gap in current law by requiring universities and colleges to spell out their policies on sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and domestic violence generally. By requiring transparency out of these institutions, this bill will increase awareness for the victimization students face every day on our college campuses.

Sexual and dating violence is a serious problem on our college campuses. Over 13 percent of female undergrads have reported being stalked while at school and one out of every five women in college have reported being sexually assaulted. While these statistics are shocking, what's even more shocking is that only a fraction of these incidents are reported. When these instances of abuse go unreported, our nation's female undergraduate victims never get the support they need.

The Campus SaVE Act would close the gap in current law by requiring institutions of higher education to clearly explain their policies on dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and domestic violence. Institutions will be required to include in their annual security reports statistics on domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking that were reported to campus police or local police agencies. It will also promote prevention and bystander responsibility by requiring these institutions to develop clear statements of policy regarding domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking prevention programs. Campus SaVE ensures that victims get the help they need by requiring schools to provide clear statements regarding their procedures followed when a case of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking is reported and provide victims an explanation of their rights in writing.

Young people should be able to focus on finding their intellectual passion during these years, not dealing with the mental and physical exhaustion of abuse. The Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act will help ensure our college campuses and universities are safer and I urge my colleagues to support it.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the United States and Azerbaijan continue to develop closer relations—relations which have proven immensely valuable to both nations—it is important to take the time to remember the Khojaly Massacre which took place in Azerbaijan 21 years ago, on February 25–26, 1992.

In a period of less than 12 hours, 1,275 Azerbaijanis were tortured and 613 were murdered, including 106 women and 63 children, in the town of Khojaly.

Newsweek described the victims of Khojaly as "ordinary Azerbaijani men, women, and children," separate from the on-going military conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Despite the shocking nature of these events, remembrance of the Khojaly Massacre has become nearly forgotten outside Azerbaijan's borders. This is unconscionable for our country, which has always fought to safeguard the human rights of all people.

In the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Azerbaijan shared in our grief and pledged to stand by the United States as we brought the perpetrators to justice.

True to their word, Azerbaijan has supported allied efforts against international terrorism by allowing unrestricted access to their territory for aircraft, troops, and supplies, as well as committing their own troops to fight alongside our own.

Just as Azerbaijan has supported our nation in its time of need, so too must we not let the massacre of the 613 Azerbaijani men, women, and children drift into the dim memory of history.

I urge my colleagues to commemorate this terrible tragedy and continue our nation's support for the people of Azerbaijan, our partners in peace and prosperity for the Caspian Region.

HONORING NANCY DAVENPORT-ENNIS ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE PATIENT ADVOCATE FOUNDATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my distinguished colleagues from Virginia Representative RIGELL and Representative SCOTT to recognize Nancy Davenport-Ennis, of Yorktown, Virginia, on her retirement 17 years after founding the Patient Advocate Foundation and the National Patient Advocate Foundation. Nancy Davenport-Ennis founded the Patient Advocate Foundation and the National Patient Advocate Foundation in 1996 in honor and memory of her friend, Cheryl Grimmel, a breast-cancer patient who was denied coverage for her treatment. Through Nancy Davenport-Ennis' determined leadership the Patient Advocate Foundation and the National Patient Advocate Foundation have provided direct patient assistance to over 965,000 patients with chronic, debilitating and life-threatening conditions who needed help navigating the health care system or finding affordable health care. Additionally, millions of other patients were assisted through web-based informational services.

Nancy Davenport-Ennis knows first-hand of the personal battle of cancer as a two-time

breast cancer survivor. She has eloquently and openly discussed how this experience aided her in establishing a body of work that will continue to help millions of patients long past her retirement. Throughout her exemplary career as a leader in health care policy she has embodied the dignity and integrity of a true patient advocate. I join with my distinguished colleagues in expressing our utmost respect and admiration for her service to Virginians and all Americans.

RECOGNIZING OLIVER EVANS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a remarkable young man, Oliver Evans. He is the younger of two children born to Oliver and Pearlie Evans. Oliver is a graduate of Clarksdale High School, Coahoma Community College and Mississippi Valley State University.

Oliver has been a fireman for four years with the Clarksdale Fire Department. He is certified by the Mississippi State Fire Academy. Saving lives is an emotional, physically fit, and demanding job. Firefighters must always be conscious of their physical ability and responsibility. Oliver received the ''Most Physically Fit Award'' from the Mississippi State Fire Academy. As a fireman, routine activities and exercises are what help him improve upon his ability to save lives such as checking fire hydrants, appliances, fire equipment, visiting local schools, building inspections and skill enhancement training. The extra training can be challenging and there are always new technologies that you must master. Again, the job is both physically and mentally demanding. You never know what to expect, the normal instinct is to run from danger; a firefighter runs into danger. Oliver said, ''I considered myself truly blessed to have the opportunity to affect the lives of others in the way that this job has provided.''

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Oliver Evans, a committed firefighter and public servant.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 45, ''Condemning the Government of North Korea for its flagrant and repeated violations of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions, for its repeated provocations that threaten international peace and stability, and for its February 12, 2013, test of a nuclear device'' (H. Res. 65). Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

COMMEMORATING THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, since declaring its independence from the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan has been a reliable friend and valuable ally of the United States in a turbulent region. In this true spirit of friendship, it seems appropriate for Congress to commemorate the victims of the Khojaly tragedy as Azerbaijani people mark the 21st anniversary of this event.

The town of Khojaly is located in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and was home to some 7,000 Azerbaijani citizens during the Armenian-Azerbaijani war. On February 25 and 26 of 1992, in a period of less than 12 hours, 613 citizens, including women and children, died at the hands of Armenian forces and Russian military troops.

Human rights organizations described the advancing forces as having committed unconscionable acts of violence against civilians as they fled. The bodies of fallen men, women and children were observed by foreign journalists who visited the region in the wake of the tragedy. Given our deepening ties with Azerbaijan, it is important for American citizens to remember this event.

Twenty-one years later, the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict has not yet been fully resolved. The anniversary of this horrible tragedy is an appropriate time to honor the victims of these atrocities and reflect on the need for all parties to work together to bring a swift end to this conflict. I urge my colleagues to join me in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate this tragedy.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND DR. YVONNE SCRUGGS-LEFTWICH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Black History Month and to honor and highlight the distinguished career of Dr. Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich. Dr. Scruggs-Leftwich's contributions to civil rights, education, and public service have left an indelible mark on our country.

Dr. Scruggs-Leftwich has dedicated the majority of her life to public service. Born in Niagra Falls, New York, she completed her elementary and high school education in Buffalo, New York. After high school, she earned her Bachelor's Degree, with honored distinction, in Political Science from North Carolina Central University. She went on to earn a master's degree in Public Administration from the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. Finally, Dr. Scruggs-Leftwich earned her Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania. She was also the first African-American to be awarded a prestigious Fulbright Fellowship, which she used to study political science at both the Free University in Berlin, Germany, and the Deutsche Hoch Schule fur Politik. Her impressive educational background has earned her teaching positions at some of the country's most revered universities, including Howard University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the George Washington University.

Her commitment to public service has been evident as well. Dr. Scruggs-Leftwich has served as Deputy Mayor of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was also New York State Housing Commissioner under Governor Mario Cuomo and has served as the Executive Director of President Carter's Urban and Regional Policy Group. Here, she worked to issue America's first formal National Urban Policy, a significant accomplishment. Additionally, as the Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Black Leadership Forum, Inc., Dr. Scruggs-Leftwich worked tirelessly to facilitate dialogue between the leaders of the African-American community while also working to design opportunities for collaboration across racial lines.

As residents of St. Petersburg, Florida, Dr. Scruggs-Leftwich and her husband, Reverend Edward Leftwich, have launched the Quantum Opportunities after-school program through the Center for Community and Economic Justice. This program works to help at-risk teens become community leaders through tutoring, internship opportunities and training in civic leadership skills. Her unwavering dedication to encouraging a commitment to education and community service with at-risk teens has contributed in countless ways to the Tampa Bay area.

Her impressive volunteer endeavors continue to make Dr. Scruggs-Leftwich's dedication to community service clear. She currently serves as Vice Chair of the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation's Board of Trustees, Executive Director of the Center for Community and Economic Justice, and is Member at Large of the Black Leadership Forum.

The Tampa Bay Community is proud to recognize Dr. Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich for her outstanding career and significant contributions to the fields of education, public policy, and civil and community activism. Her dedication to advancing the rights of others through both public and community service makes her an inspirational leader. I ask that you and all Americans recognize such a remarkable citizen for her dedication to our community and our nation.

TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN CANCER FUND FOR CHILDREN AND KIDS CANCER CONNECTION

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise once again today to recognize and congratulate the American Cancer Fund for Children and Kids Cancer Connection.

The City of Beverly Hills proclaimed the week of November 18, 2012 ''Childhood Cancer Awareness Week.'' I am pleased to join the City of Beverly Hills in thanking Steven Firestein, the founder of the American Cancer Fund for Children and its sister organization, Kids Cancer Connection for his wonderful work in assisting children affected by cancer.

More than eighteen years ago, Steven began the American Cancer Fund for Children to provide vital patient psychosocial services to children undergoing cancer treatment at the Skull Base Institute at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Office Towers in Los Angeles, Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles as well as participating hospitals throughout the country.

One of the wonderful services provided through the American Cancer Fund for Children is the Magical Caps for Kids program. Hand-made caps and decorated baseball caps are given to children who want to protect their heads following the trauma of chemotherapy, surgery and/or radiation. The American Cancer Fund for Children also sponsors the Courageous Kid award ceremonies and hospital celebrations in recognition of a child's bravery and determination to fight the battle against childhood cancer.

As we know, cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among children in the United States. This tragic disease is detected in nearly 15,000 of our nation's children each year. Steven Firestein and the American Cancer Fund for Children and Kids Cancer Connection are providing critical services and comfort to young patients battling cancer and their families. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and recognizing Steven Firestein for his tremendous efforts.

HONORING ROBERT SEATON, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a selfless man of the community, Mr. Robert Seaton, Sr.

Robert Seaton is a resident of Sharkey County, Mississippi. He was born December 2, 1944 in Blanton, Mississippi to the late Leola and Oscar Seaton. Mr. Seaton was raised by his grandparents, Ester and Joseph Kelly until 1954, the death of his grandmother.

Mr. Seaton graduated from Rolling Fork School. After graduation he moved to Los Angeles, California where he worked in a bakery downtown. In 1972, he returned to Mississippi. Since his return Robert worked for an auto mechanics shop, served 14 years as a volunteer Firefighter in Cary, Mississippi, and served two terms as Alderman in the Town of Cary until he became the Mayor of Cary.

Robert is a member of New Hope M. B. Church in Blanton, Mississippi. He also is a member of the Deer Creek Watershed Executive Board. Mr. Seaton hosts Fire Prevention Week each year for the children of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Robert Seaton, Sr. for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the community he grew up in.

MCILHENNY COMPANY CEO PAUL MCILHENNY PASSES AWAY AT 68

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to commemorate the passing of a great leader in the South Louisiana community who built his family business into a national brand and was known as "The Scion of Spice."

Paul McIlhenny, CEO of the McIlhenny Company and owner of the Tabasco sauce brand, was a true friend and advocate for the state of Louisiana, promoting tourism and Cajun culture abroad while fighting coastal erosion at home. He was passionate about food, an avid hunter, a generous philanthropist and always quick with a joke. He will be dearly missed by the entire community in South Louisiana and remembered as a steadfast advocate for our state. To commemorate Mr. McIlhenny's passing, I request to include an article from the New Orleans Times-Picayune, written by John Pope, in its entirety into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Paul McIlhenny, an ebullient executive who for 14 years led the family-owned company that makes Tabasco sauce and who reigned as Rex in 2006, died Saturday at his New Orleans home, apparently of a heart attack. He was 68.

Mr. McIlhenny, whom The New York Times once called "The Scion of Spice," became the company's president in 1998—the sixth family member to hold that title—and chief executive officer two years later. At his death, he still held the latter position and also was chairman of the board of directors, but a cousin, Anthony "Tony" Simmons, was named president last year.

The company, which was founded by Edmund McIlhenny in 1868 on Avery Island, near New Iberia, sells Tabasco sauce in about 165 countries and has 11 websites outside the United States, in North and South America and Europe.

During Mr. McIlhenny's years at the helm of the McIlhenny Co., he worked aggressively to expand the number of items to which the familiar Tabasco logo could be affixed. They include T-shirts, aprons, neckties, teddy bears and computer screensavers, as well as seven varieties of hot sauce.

In 2009, Queen Elizabeth II granted the company a royal warrant, which entitles it to advertise that it supplies the pepper sauce to the British royal family. In honor of the queen's Diamond Jubilee last year, the company turned out a Tabasco-sauce box for its British market emblazoned with drawings of dozens of diamonds.

In the United States, the company provides hot sauce for Air Force One.

Mr. McIlhenny entered the family business in 1967, shortly after earning a degree in political science at the University of the South in Tennessee.

Despite his passion for all things Louisiana, Mr. McIlhenny was born in Houston in 1944, along with a twin sister, Sara, because their mother was staying there with her mother while the children's father was in the military during World War II, said his daughter Barbara McIlhenny Fitz-Hugh.

Mr. McIlhenny grew up in New Orleans and spent much of his childhood shuttling between New Orleans and the family's compound on Avery Island.

Because of his interest in the wetlands around Avery Island, his passion for hunting and his mother's membership on a committee concerned with coastal-zone management, Mr. McIlhenny became aware years ago of Louisiana's increasingly fragile coastline. Gov. Mike Foster appointed him to the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Restoration, Protection and Conservation, and he was a vice chairman and board member of the America's Wetland Foundation, whose logo appears on every box of Tabasco sauce sold in the United States.

Although Mr. McIlhenny was serious about coastal restoration and the preservation of Louisiana's wetlands, he generally was a merry man—one friend described him as "Falstaffian"—who strove to inject humor wherever possible.

A few days before he reigned as Rex in 2006, Mr. McIlhenny quipped that if, during the ceremonial toast to the mayor at Gallier Hall, the subject of hot sauce came up, "I'll say that's one form of global warming I'm totally in favor of. We're defending the world against bland food."

He took the throne six months after Hurricane Katrina roared ashore, the city's levees failed and 80 percent of New Orleans was flooded. The Rex den took on about 5 feet of water; watermarks were clearly visible on its floats when the parade rolled.

Because of the storm's impact, some people, including Carnival insiders, had questioned the wisdom of having parades in 2006. Mr. McIlhenny said in a pre-parade interview that the thought never crossed his mind."If there was any time when we needed distraction, digression, diversion from the grind, it's Mardi Gras," he said, "and if there was any time we ever needed it, it's here. We need to let it all hang out and, in the sense of pre-Lenten revelry, make sure we relax and recreate."

Mr. McIlhenny was president of Bayou Corp., his hunting club in Vermilion Parish; a former president of the New Iberia Rotary Club; a founder and board member of Fuelman/Fleetman Cos. Inc.; a director of the Friends of the National Arboretum; a member of the Marine Military Academy board; and a lifetime sponsor of Ducks Unlimited. He also was a member of the Bohemian Grove, the Avoca Duck Club, the Boston Club, the Louisiana Club, the Recess Club and the Chattooga Club.

In 2010, Mr. McIlhenny was inducted into the James Beard Foundation's Who's Who of Food and Beverage in America. He was an author of a cookbook compiled to mark the McIlhenny Co.'s 125th anniversary.

Survivors include his wife, Judith Goodwin McIlhenny; two daughters, Barbara McIlhenny Fitz-Hugh of New Orleans and Rosemary McIlhenny Dinkins of Nashville, Tenn.; a brother, Gustaf McIlhenny of Maine; a sister, Sara McIlhenny Ringle of Covington; and four grandchildren.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA PRESIDENT BEN ALLEN

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend Ben Allen on his retirement as the President of the University of Northern Iowa. On May 31st, President Allen will be retiring after six and a half years of service to the University of Northern Iowa (UNI).

Ben Allen was named the ninth President of UNI on April 28, 2006. Prior to serving at UNI,

President Allen served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at Iowa State University. President Allen has been a hard-working leader for UNI and the Cedar Valley community. Under President Allen's leadership, UNI has established priorities for increasing student achievement in undergraduate performance, and providing statewide leadership in Pre-K through 12 education.

Ben Allen led UNI through exciting and challenging times. I have always respected Ben's love for the University and his contributions to higher education at both UNI and Iowa State. I'm proud to call Ben my friend and I wish Ben and his wife Pat all the best in their future plans and endeavors.

HONORING MR. MICHAEL HIGGINS ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and some sadness that I rise to honor Mr. Michael R. Higgins, a Professional Staff Member of the Armed Services Committee, on the eve of his retirement.

For over forty years, Mike has dedicated himself to his country and the Armed Forces. He served in the United States Air Force for twenty years and retired as Lieutenant Colonel. For the next 23 years, it was our great fortune that he chose the Armed Services Committee as the home for his incredible talents.

Mike served 7 HASC chairmen and 8 subcommittee chairmen, helping to steer our committee through war and peace. His sage advice guided members out of the Cold War and through the sporadic conflicts of the 1990s, social changes both large and small, and a tough 11 years of war. For any analyst looking to answer the question, "How did the all-volunteer military survive those war years?," I would urge them to examine the contributions of Mike Higgins.

When the Pentagon struggled to attract quality recruits, Mike helped improve military recruiting and retention programs. When issues arose with outdated military pay and retirement policies, Mike modernized those systems. When the strains of combat brought in Wounded Warriors to rehabilitate, Mike helped guarantee attention to their needs.

Mike encountered an historic array of challenges to the Armed Forces. Some were structural, some were strategic, and some were social. But Mike's consummate professionalism, commitment to the military people that he loved, and perseverance in the face of the toughest political and policy debates helped us meet each issue with wisdom and experience. For that, I am grateful and in his debt.

His legacy is unmistakable. Whenever the military and Congress found themselves at odds, whenever there was a shared obstacle to overcome, and whenever a member of our committee –Republican or Democrat–needed advice or counsel, Mike was there.

Mike Higgins is a giant. He shaped the service of every man and woman of the Armed Forces over the last two decades. Every military retiree, their survivors, and each military family benefited from Mike's commitment to them. Mike will cast a long shadow far beyond his retirement.

His humility is matched only by his intellect, his ability to listen and a fearsome ability to see to the heart of an issue. When oversight is your business, sharp eyes are your sword. And no sword was sharper than that of this modest, unassuming Airman, who served his country with the tenacity of a lion, yet would today be surprised that so much is being made of all that he accomplished. Thank you, Mike.

TRIBUTE TO THE SHAW VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NUMBER ONE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable volunteer fire department in the Mississippi Delta.

The Shaw Volunteer Fire Company Number One was established on November 15, 1921 with Chas F. Hill as Fire Chief, R. V. Farmer as Assistant Chief, and N. L. Chapman as Captain and twenty firemen. Recently, the Shaw Volunteer Fire Department became a part of the Bolivar County Fire Department and is known as District 5. This has increased their service area to surrounding communities and they currently serve 4,000 residents.

Since its establishment, the Shaw Volunteer Fire Department has been a great benefit to the citizens of Shaw by saving many lives, businesses, and personal property. The fire department has been the first responders and rescuers at numerous incidents like automobile, school bus, and natural disasters.

The Shaw Volunteer Fire Department was one of the first departments to have female firefighters. Under the direction of its current Fire Chief, Timothy Caninco and Captain Bernice Boone and 12 firefighters, they have established the Shaw Fire Academy to educate and train youths and adults on fire safety. The fire department has received numerous outstanding performance certifications and awards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the City of Shaw Volunteer Fire Department for its dedication to serving the citizens of Shaw and responding to call for help within the surrounding area.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, on February 4, 2013, through February 6, 2013 I was unable to record my votes for rollcall No.31–No.38. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 31: Yes—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 225.

Rollcall No. 32: Yes—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 297.

Rollcall No. 33: No—Ordering the Previous Question.

Rollcall No. 34: No—On Agreeing to the Resolution.

Rollcall No. 35: Yes—On Agreeing to the Takano Amendment.

Rollcall No. 36: Yes—On Agreeing to the Schrader Amendment.

Rollcall No. 37: Yes—On Motion to Recommit with Instructions.

Rollcall No. 38: Yes—On Passage.

HONORING THE HONOREES OF THE OXFORD HILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recipients of the 2013 Annual Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce Awards. Representing over 400 area businesses and organizations, the Oxford Hills Chamber has been instrumental in advocating for economic growth throughout the greater Oxford County region.

Each year, the Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce honors local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy economic environment. These honorees embody the kind of entrepreneurism and resourcefulness which has helped the state to weather one of the harshest economic climates in American history.

This year's award recipients include Business of the Year, Oxford Casino; Employee of the Year, Steve Holbrook, teacher at Oxford Hills Christian Academy; Rising Star of the Year, ServiceMaster Fire and Water Restoration of Oxford. Additionally, the staff at Responsible Pet Care will receive the Community Service Award.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities and to the region, Maine is a better place to live and to do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Oxford Hills Region Chamber of Commerce and these individuals on their outstanding service and achievement.

WASHINGTON FIRE COMPANY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Washington Fire Company No 1. which will celebrate 155 years of service to the Borough of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania and the surrounding counties.

The Washington Fire Company is one of the oldest operations of its kind still servicing Cumberland County. Named after our country's first president, the company was formally constituted on February 22nd, 1858. The town hall was used to house equipment and hold meetings until 1860, when a firehouse was built on East Main Street, a facility the Washington Fire Company still uses to this day.

The Washington Fire Company has been an important force against many historic fires in

the region. Members of their workforce were present at the Thomas Printing fire in 1903, the Grantham Aircraft Engine Works and the Updegraf's Bowling Alley fires in 1956, the Brandtsville Train Wreck in 1963, the Arch Street School fire in 1972, and the fire at Rakestraw's Ice Cream in 1991. They continue to put their lives on the line to protect the people of Cumberland County.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 155 years, the Washington Fire Company has acted as an important asset to the citizens of Mechanicsburg and the surrounding counties. Therefore, I commend the personnel who have faithfully worked to protect our community at this fire house.

HONORING THE TUTWILER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Tutwiler Volunteer Fire Department (Tutwiler VFD) located in Tutwiler, Mississippi. The department serves a population of 3,550 citizens.

The Tutwiler VFD is staffed by twelve volunteers tasked with the responsibility of saving lives and responding to emergencies. The staff consists of both full and part time volunteers. Some of the volunteers have been certified by the National Fire Protection Association and/or the State of Mississippi as a highly trained and qualified firefighter and first responder. Volunteer fire departments with trained firefighters are an invaluable asset to rural areas like Tutwiler.

The job of saving lives requires skill, a passion for life, and good equipment. Some of the volunteers work for more than one volunteer fire department because many communities are small and spread apart.

The Tutwiler VFD has a lot of territory to cover. They respond to calls from the Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility, the Tallahatchie County School District, and neighboring communities. The correctional facility is a 2800 bed facility, and the school district has a student body of over 800 students. When the Tutwiler VFD staff is not responding to calls, they engage in ongoing community outreach to educate citizens on fire safety measures and techniques.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Tutwiler Volunteer Fire Department for the work they are doing to save lives in the Mississippi Delta.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM P. DIGGS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable theologian and dedicated community servant. Dr. William P. Diggs has retired after 50 years of leading Trinity Baptist Church in Florence, South Carolina. He has set a tremendous example of stewardship and service for future generations to follow.

Dr. Diggs was born in Columbia, South Carolina, but grew up in Rock Hill. Always a dedicated student, he graduated from Morehouse College, earned a Master of Arts in Sociology from Atlanta University, a Master of Divinity from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, New York, and a Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago.

Educational opportunities took him around the country, but Dr. Diggs longed to return home to South Carolina. Upon his return, he served as Pastor at Flat Rock Baptist Church in Clover, South Carolina, and Galilee Baptist Church in nearby York. In 1962, he truly found a home when he took the position as Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church where he remained until his retirement in December 2012.

During his half-century at Trinity, the church itself grew in size and influence. The improvements to the physical structure included a church manse, a complete renovation of the edifice, and the construction of a new education building. The church also purchased two buildings—Trinity Annex and the Old Seaboard Depot—and secured land for a new parking lot. A new addition which houses a pre-school; additional Sunday school classrooms; meeting rooms; and a fully-equipped kitchen was also built. And in 2010, the church purchased commercial property on North Dargan Street that includes barber shops, beauty salons and a restaurant.

The church's community influence also grew with its size. Dr. Diggs made education a priority and led Trinity Baptist Church to contribute nearly $35,000 annually to higher education facilities. He also instituted a pre-school which is licensed by the State of South Carolina and has been recognized for its excellence. The church also organized a federally operated credit union, which has assets of almost three million dollars.

Dr. Diggs accomplished quite a lot at Trinity Baptist Church, but his contributions did not stop at the church's door. He served as an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Friendship, Benedict and Morris Colleges for a total of 24 years, and is a former Adjunct Professor at Francis Marion University. He is a sought after speaker having addressed students at Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Religion, Interdenominational Theological Center, Bishop College, the University of South Carolina, Winthrop University and Coker College, and many sermons at churches throughout the country.

He has also contributed his time and talents to other faith-based organizations; serving as Past President and Past Dean of the Congress of Christian Education, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc., and Past Dean of the South Region. He is also a Past Moderator of the Pee Dee Baptist Association, and the Past Dean of the Pee Dee Baptist Workshop.

He has served as a member of the Boards of Trustees at Friendship College, Benedict College, and Morris Colleges, a member of the Boards of Directors at Morehouse School of Religion, the Interdenominational Theological Center, and as a board member of Nannie Helen Burroughs School, the Greater Florence Habitat for Humanity, and the Mayor's Human Relations Committee.

Dr. Diggs is a Life Member of the NAACP, and Past President of the Florence Branch. He helped to organize the first "sit-in" demonstrations in South Carolina, which occurred on February 12, 1960 in Rock Hill.

Dr. Diggs is the recipient of numerous awards including the Order of the Palmetto in 1996, the highest civilian award given by the Governor of South Carolina. He was inducted into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame in 1998 by 100 Black Men of South Carolina, Inc. and the United Black Fund. The Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce awarded him the Building Bridges Humanitarian Award in 2000. He is also the recipient of the Pee Dee Area Council Boy Scouts of America Whitney Young Award and the AARP Andrus Award for Community Service for the State of South Carolina among many other honors.

Dr. Diggs is married to the former Clotilda Daniels, and the couple has two children—Mary Lynne and William, Jr. (Lennette). They have one grandson, William IV.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in commending Dr. William P. Diggs for his more than 50 years of service in the ministry. His ministry is a living example of Peter's admonition, "As each one has received a special gift, employs it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." I am proud to call Dr. Diggs a dear friend, and I wish him well in retirement.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS LLOYD CLAUDE "L.C." RICE

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and mark the passing of Sergeant First Class L.C. Rice, one of my constituents, a highly decorated veteran, and a true servant of our nation.

SFC Rice was born in Greer, SC, in 1923, the son of the late Bunyon Clinton Rice and the late Tenie Jane Beaver Rice. L.C. Rice grew up during the Depression, so after completing the lower grades, he went to work. In January 1941, SFC Rice joined the Navy at the age of 17.

He was a machinist mate stationed on the USS Pennsylvania at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on the morning of December 7, 1941. His ship was in dry dock when it was attacked, and all weapons and ammunition had been removed. SFC Rice spent that day "which shall live in infamy" rescuing the wounded and collecting the dead.

Next, SFC Rice was sent on a secret mission to deliver the cruiser USS Milwaukee to the Russians. His family could not be told where he was, and he was gone for so long they believed him missing in action. Later, he was stationed on a ship off the coast of Normandy, which was torpedoed and sank beneath him. Although he was hit by shrapnel, he swam through the debris and made it to shore, rescuing others along the way. Once on land, L.C. was given a rifle and helped fight against the Nazis. During World War II, he served both in naval and ground combat in both the Pacific and the European theatres. SFC Rice also participated in the Pacific Island campaigns and was part of the atomic bomb tests at the Bikini Atoll in 1946. For his service to our nation, SFC Rice was awarded the Purple Heart.

After his service in the Navy, SFC Rice joined the Army's 82nd Airborne and became a master parachutist, drill sergeant and jumpmaster, completing more than 1500 jumps. He served two combat tours in Korea and won a bronze star for bravery. SFC Rice was instrumental in forming the Army's ''Golden Knights'' official parachute team, and was one of the first military advisors sent to South Vietnam during the Vietnam War to train their soldiers. SFC Rice also trained soldiers at Fort Jackson and Fort Bragg.

SFC Rice retired from active duty in 1963 and from reserve duty in 1973, after 32 years of military service during three separate wars. SFC Rice is York County's most decorated soldier. After retirement, L.C. devoted nearly all his time to the Rock Hill VFW, the American Legion, the Honor Guard, and to veterans in general.

SFC Rice was interred with full military honors on February 15, 2013, in Rock Hill, SC. L.C. Rice was the widower of Jeanie Rice and Edna ''Jan'' Biles Rice. He was the last survivor of 11 children, six sisters and four brothers. He is survived by 11 nieces, 10 nephews, and many loyal friends and devoted caregivers.

L.C. Rice was an American Hero. He was truly on the front lines of the generation that saved America and the World. We will remember L.C. not only for his bravery and service to our country, but more importantly, as a dear friend. My thoughts and prayers are with L.C.'s family and for all those who knew him and share in the pain of his loss.

HONORING JERRY BARBER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississipi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous volunteer firefighter, Mr. Jerry Barber.

Aside from being a volunteer firefighter, Mr. Barber is a member of the Leland High School Class of 1978, the cook for the Leland High School Booster Club, and also a carpenter.

Mr. Barber got his inspiration to be a volunteer firefighter from former Chief James Hasting of Leland, Mississippi. Mr. Barber thought he was brave and wanted to be like him. So, he started asking Chief Hasting about being a firefighter. Chief Hasting told him, ''it's not about the money, it's about the life and property you save for others''.

In 2006, Chief Michael Johnson of the Leland Fire Department hired Mr. Barber as a volunteer firefighter, where he is still employed. Since then he has taken great pride in being a fireman through training and certification. He is certified in Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). He is also trained and licensed to drive fire trucks along with mechanical knowledge and equipment maintenance of the truck. In addition to that, Mr. Barber has undergone training in other fire equipment operation and safety. Mr. Barber has climbed the ranks since 2006 to become the Assistant Chief of the Leland Fire Department.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Jerry Barber for his dedication and passion to serving the city of Leland, Mississippi.

CONGRATULATING INAUGURATION OF MADAM PRESIDENT PARK GEUN-HYE, SOUTH KOREA'S FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join millions of people across the world in congratulating Madam President Park Geun-hye as she ascends to the Presidency. This historic occasion of swearing in a female to the head of government reflects the tremendous leaps that The Republic of Korea has made to become a shining example of one of the most successful democracies in the world. South Korea has emerged from the ashes of war into a giant in Asia and throughout the international community.

As we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Armistice and the mutual military treaty, I am pleased to reaffirm my commitment to strengthening the bloodshed U.S.-Korea alliance in my capacity as a Member of the U.S. Congress. South Korea is among the closest allies of the United States, having contributed troops in support of United States operations during the Vietnam war, Gulf war, and operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, while also supporting numerous United Nations peacekeeping missions throughout the world.

In addition to being a major military ally to the United States, South Korea is our nation's seventh-largest trading partner. As the Ranking Member of House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade, I look forward to working with President Park's Administration to implement the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement.

As a Korean War Veteran, I could not be more proud to witness today's Dynamic Korea. Seoul's skyscrapers, booming businesses and rising apartment buildings are a testament to the resiliency and determination of the Korean people. I send my best wishes to President Park and applaud the people and country that will always hold a special place in my heart.

TRIBUTE TO LLOYD ANDRE ROLLINS

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Lloyd Andre Rollins of Columbus, Ohio. A true American hero, Mr. Rollins' service here on earth came to a close on January 30, 2013. An Ohioan and veteran of the United States Air Force, he is among the countless number of fearless warriors and veterans who have devoted their lives to serving our great nation.

In 1957, Mr. Rollins began his service in the United States Air Force. He was later transferred to the Department of State and sworn into the U.S. Foreign Service, where he served for 27 years. Mr. Rollins was awarded a Medal of Valor after he was taken hostage during the 1979 siege of the United States Embassy in Tehran, Iran.

Mr. Rollins is survived by his wife, Judy, and his two daughters, Patricia and Terri. As I pray for the family and friends of Mr. Rollins, I ask that all Members of Congress join me in offering our deepest appreciation and gratitude for his life and service to this country.

TRIBUTE TO DEAN DANIEL JOHN MEADOR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a distinguished Alabamian who made many valuable contributions to the study of law both in his home State and in the state of Virginia. Daniel John Meador, a retired University of Virginia law professor and former dean of the University of Alabama Law School, recently passed away at the age of 86.

Professor Meador was born in Selma, Alabama in 1926. He attended The Citadel and later graduated from Auburn University and the University of Alabama Law School. He pursued graduate study at the Harvard Law School where he received the degree of Master of Laws in 1954.

During the Korean War, he served in the U.S. Army, first in the artillery and then in the Judge Advocate General's Corps in Korea. From 1954 to 1955, he was law clerk to Justice Hugo L. Black of the U.S. Supreme Court. He then entered law practice in Birmingham with the firm of Lange, Simpson, Robinson, and Somerville. In 1957 he joined the law faculty at the University of Virginia. From 1965 to 1966, he was a Fulbright Lecturer in England.

His deanship at the University of Alabama Law School from 1966 to 1970 came at a time of transition in the School's development. With the backing of the University president, Dr. Frank Rose, he was successful in greatly increasing financial support for the school from its alumni and others. Under his leadership the law library collection was doubled, the curriculum expanded, new faculty recruited, and a program of visiting professors and lecturers inaugurated. He was instrumental in obtaining for the school a chapter of Order of the Coif, the national legal honor society. He initiated plans for a new law school building, completed a decade later.

In 1970, he rejoined the University of Virginia law faculty as James Monroe Professor of Law, a position he held until his retirement in 1994. At the University of Virginia he received the Raven Award, Alumni Association Distinguished Professor Award, and the Thomas Jefferson Award, the University's highest honor.

From 1977 to 1979, he was an Assistant Attorney General in the U.S. Department of Justice, heading a new office entitled the Office for Improvements in the Administration of Justice. One of his most significant accomplishments there was the development of the bill that Congress enacted to create the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the Court of Federal Claims.

Dean Meador was the founding president of the Cahaba Foundation, a non-profit corporation dedicated to securing private financial support for the state historical park at Cahaba, Alabama's first State capital. He took a deep personal interest in Cahaba because his mother's family lived and conducted extensive

farming operations there for three generations, and he spent much time there in his childhood. He recounted all of this in a memoir, At Cahaba—From Civil War to Great Depression. For his preservation efforts in Cahaba he received the distinguished service award from the Alabama Historical Commission.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I wish to offer condolences to his wife, Alice, and their three children—Barrie Meador Boyd; Anna Meador Palms; Daniel J. Meador Jr., seven grandchildren, and a brother, Dr. Clifton K. Meador, former dean of the University of Alabama Medical School.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 27

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine animal drug user fee agreements, focusing on advancing animal health for the public health.

SD–430

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the assault weapons ban of 2013.

SH–216

Committee on Rules and Administration

Business meeting to markup the Omnibus Budget for Senate committees.

SR–301

2 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jane Kelly, of Iowa, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit.

SD–226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

SR–328A

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the power of transparency, focusing on giving consumers the information they need to make smart choices in the health insurance market.

SR–253

3 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine strengthening Medicare for today and the future.

SD–106

FEBRUARY 28

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Alan F. Estevez, of the District of Columbia, to be Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Frederick Vollrath, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Readiness and Force Management, and Eric K. Fanning, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force, all of the Department of Defense.

SD–106

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine addressing the Federal Housing Administration's (FHA), financial condition and program challenges, part II.

SD–538

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 150, to regulate assault weapons, to ensure that the right to keep and bear arms is not unlimited, S. 54, to increase public safety by punishing and deterring firearms trafficking, S. 374, to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale, S. 146, to enhance the safety of America's schools, and the nominations of David Medine, of Maryland, to be Chairman and Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, Shelly Deckert Dick, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana, William H. Orrick, III, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, Nelson Stephen Roman, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Sheri Polster Chappell, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Kenneth John Gonzales, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, Michael J. McShane, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, and Nitza I. Quinones Alejandro, Luis Felipe Restrepo, and Jeffrey L. Schmehl, all to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

SD–216

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine a legislative presentation of Military Officer Association of America, Retired Enlisted Association, Non Commissioned Officers Association, Blinded Veterans Association, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Wounded Warrior Project, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and American Ex-Prisoners of War.

SD–G50

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the state of the United States economy, focusing on economic growth and job creation, and what Congress can do to boost them.

SH–216

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine delivery system reform, focusing on a progress report from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

SD–215

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH–219

MARCH 7

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Sarah Jewell, of Washington, to be Secretary of the Interior.

SD–366

POSTPONEMENTS

FEBRUARY 28

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the future of passenger rail, focusing on what's next for the Northeast Corridor.

SR–253

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senator Ayotte read Washington's Farewell Address.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S793–S818

Measures Introduced: Five bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 374–378, and S. Res. 38–41. **Page S813**

Measures Reported:

S. Res. 38, authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

S. Res. 39, authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship for March 1, 2013, through September 30, 2013.

S. Res. 40, authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Measures Passed:

North Korea Nonproliferation and Accountability Act: Senate passed S. 298, to prevent nuclear proliferation in North Korea, after agreeing to the committee amendments. **Pages S816–17**

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 41, supporting the designation of March 2013, as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. **Page S817**

Hagel Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, February 26, 2013, the motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the nomination of Charles Timothy Hagel, of Nebraska, to be Secretary of Defense, be agreed to; the motion to reconsider be agreed to; the time until 12 p.m., be equally divided in the usual form, and that following the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination, upon reconsideration. **Page S816**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that if cloture is invoked, the time during recess, morning business and adjournment count post-cloture on the nomination. **Pages S817–18**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By a unanimous vote of 93 yeas (Vote No. EX. 22), Robert E. Bacharach, of Oklahoma, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit. **Pages S803–05, S818**

Messages from the House: **Page S813**

Measures Referred: **Page S813**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S813–14**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S814–16**

Additional Statements: **Pages S812–13**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S816**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S816**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S816**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—22) **Page S805**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 6:32 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 26, 2013. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S817–18.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: On Tuesday, February 19, 2013, committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 113th Congress:

Subcommittee on AirLand: Senators Manchin (Chair), Nelson, McCaskill, Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Donnelly, Wicker, McCain, Sessions, Chambliss, and Blunt.

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities: Senators Hagan (Chair), Reed, Nelson, Udall (CO),

Manchin, Shaheen, Gillibrand, Fischer, McCain, Wicker, Graham, Vitter, and Cruz.

Subcommittee on Personnel: Senators Gillibrand (Chair), Hagan, Blumenthal, Hirono, Kaine, King, Graham, Chambliss, Ayotte, Blunt, and Lee.

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support: Senators Shaheen (Chair), McCaskill, Udall (CO), Manchin, Donnelly, Hirono, Kaine, Ayotte, Chambliss, Fischer, Blunt, Lee, and Cruz.

Subcommittee on Seapower: Senators Reed (Chair), Nelson, Hagan, Shaheen, Blumenthal, Hirono, Kaine, King, McCain, Sessions, Wicker, Ayotte, Graham, Vitter, and Cruz.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces: Senators Udall (CO) (Chair), Reed, McCaskill, Donnelly, King, Sessions, Fischer, Vitter, and Lee.

Senators Levin and Inhofe are ex-officio members of each subcommittee.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee for the 113th Congress.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee for the 113th Congress.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee ordered favorably reported an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee.

Also, committee adopted its rules of procedure for the 113th Congress.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 16 public bills, H.R. 803–818; and 4 resolutions, H.Res. 77–80 were introduced. **Pages H626–27**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H627–29**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Womack to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H601**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 303 yeas to 91 nays with 1 answering "present", Roll No. 46. **Pages H601, H605–06**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:10 p.m. and reconvened at 5 p.m. **Page H602**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center Designation Act: H.R. 667, to redesignate the Dryden Flight Research Center as the Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center and the Western Aeronautical Test Range as the Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 394 yeas with none voting "nay" and 1 answering "present", Roll No. 47. **Pages H602–05, H606–07**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:34 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H605**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H606, H606–07. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2013

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 113th Congress, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: organizational business meeting to consider committee rules, subcommittee assignments, and an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the

113th Congress; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine semiannual Monetary Policy Report to Congress, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine the impact of Federal investments on people, communities, and long-term economic growth, 10:30 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 113th Congress, Time to be announced, S–219, Capitol.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the budget and economic outlook, focusing on fiscal years 2013 to 2023; to be immediately followed by an organizational business meeting to consider committee rules, subcommittee assignments, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 113th Congress, and to consider the nominations of Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be Secretary, and Christopher J. Meade, of New York, to be General Counsel, both of the Department of the Treasury, and William B. Schultz, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine state leadership and innovation in disability employment, 2:30 p.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: organizational business meeting to consider committee rules, and an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 113th Congress, 3:45 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: organizational business meeting to consider electing the Chairwoman and Vice Chairman and committee rules during the 113th Congress, and any other organizational business items, 3 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 113th Congress, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine a legislative presentation of Disabled American Veterans (DAV), 2 p.m., 345, Cannon Building.

Select Committee on Intelligence: closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of February 26 through March 1, 2013

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, at approximately 12 noon, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Charles Timothy Hagel, of Nebraska, to be Secretary of Defense, upon reconsideration.

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 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: February 26, organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 113th Congress, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

February 27, Full Committee, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 2:30 p.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Armed Services: February 28, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Alan F. Estevez, of the District of Columbia, to be Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Frederick Vollrath, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Readiness and Force Management, and Eric K. Fanning, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force, all of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: February 26, organizational business meeting to consider committee rules, subcommittee assignments, and an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 113th Congress; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine semiannual Monetary Policy Report to Congress, 10 a.m., SD–106.

February 28, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine addressing the Federal Housing Administration's (FHA), financial condition and program challenges, part II, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: February 26, to hold hearings to examine the impact of Federal investments on people, communities, and long-term economic growth, 10:30 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: February 27, to hold hearings to examine the power of transparency, focusing on giving consumers the information they need to make smart choices in the health insurance market, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: February 26, organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 113th Congress, Time to be announced, S–219, Capitol.

Committee on Finance: February 26, to hold hearings to examine the budget and economic outlook, focusing on fiscal years 2013 to 2023; to be immediately followed by an organizational business meeting to consider committee rules, subcommittee assignments, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 113th Congress, and to consider the nominations of Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be Secretary, and Christopher J. Meade, of New York, to be General Counsel, both of the Department of the Treasury, and William B. Schultz, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD–215.

February 28, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine delivery system reform, focusing on a progress report from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), 10:30 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: February 26, to hold hearings to examine state leadership and innovation in disability employment, 2:30 p.m., SD–G50.

February 27, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine animal drug user fee agreements, focusing on advancing animal health for the public health, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: February 26, organizational business meeting to consider committee rules, and an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 113th Congress, 3:45 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: February 26, organizational business meeting to consider electing the Chairwoman and Vice Chairman and committee rules during the 113th Congress, and any other organizational business items, 3 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: February 26, organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 113th Congress, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

February 27, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the assault weapons ban of 2013, 10 a.m., SH–216.

February 27, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jane Kelly, of Iowa, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, 2 p.m., SD–226.

February 28, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 150, to regulate assault weapons, to ensure that the right to keep and bear arms is not unlimited, S. 54, to increase public safety by punishing and deterring firearms trafficking, S. 374, to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale, S. 146, to enhance the safety of America's schools, and the nominations of David Medine, of Maryland, to be Chairman and Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, Shelly Deckert Dick, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana, William H. Orrick, III, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, Nelson Stephen Roman, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Sheri Polster Chappell, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Kenneth John Gonzales, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, Michael J. McShane, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, and Nitza I. Quinones Alejandro, Luis Felipe Restrepo, and Jeffrey L. Schmehl, all to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 10 a.m., SD–216.

Committee on Rules and Administration: February 27, business meeting to markup the Omnibus Budget for Senate committees, 10 a.m., SR–301.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: February 26, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine a legislative presentation of Disabled American Veterans (DAV), 2 p.m., 345, Cannon Building.

February 28, Full Committee, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine a legislative presentation of Military Officer Association of America, Retired Enlisted Association, Non Commissioned Officers Association, Blinded Veterans Association, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Wounded Warrior Project, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and American Ex-Prisoners of War, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Select Committee on Intelligence: February 26, closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

February 28, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: February 27, to hold hearings to examine strengthening Medicare for today and the future, 3 p.m., SD–106.

House

Committee on Agriculture, February 26, Full Committee, meeting to consider the Budget Views and Estimates Letter of the Committee on Agriculture for the agencies and programs under the jurisdiction of the Committee for FY 2014, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, February 26, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing entitled ''Fiscal Challenges'', 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

February 26, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, hearing on Nuclear Nonproliferation and Naval Reactors, 1 p.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

February 26, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, hearing on Government Accountability Office FY 2014 Budget, 10 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.

February 26, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, hearing on Government Printing Office FY 2014 Budget, 11 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.

February 27, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, hearing on the Library of Congress FY 2014 Budget, 9:30 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.

February 27, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing on Resources for Risk-Based Security, Transportation Security Administration Budget, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

February 27, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, hearing on Oversight of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, 10 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

February 27, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing on Indian Education, 10 a.m., B–308 Rayburn.

February 27, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, hearing on Congressional Budget Office FY 2014 Budget, 10:15 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, February 26, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on the Quadrennial Defense Review: Process, Policy, and Perspectives, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

February 26, Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, hearing on the Future of Seapower, 3:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

February 27, Full Committee, hearing on the transition in Afghanistan: Views of Outside Experts, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

February 27, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing on the impact to military end strength in a budget constrained environment, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

February 27, Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing on the role of intelligence in the Department of Defense, 3:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

February 28, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing on assuring viability of the sustainment industrial base, 8 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

February 28, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing on Nuclear Security: Actions, Accountability and Reform, 10:30 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

February 28, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing on impacts of a continuing resolution and sequestration on acquisition, programming, and the industrial base, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, February 26, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training, hearing entitled ''Putting America Back to Work: Reforming the Nation's Workforce Investment System'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

February 27, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Protecting Students and Teachers: A Discussion on School Safety'', 12:30 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

February 28, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled ''Raising the Bar: How are Schools Measuring Teacher Performance?'', 9 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, February 26, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled ''American Energy Security and Innovation: An Assessment of Private-Sector Successes and Opportunities in Energy Efficient Technologies'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

February 27, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled ''Is the Broadband Stimulus Working?'', 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

February 27, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Fostering Innovation to Fight Waste, Fraud and Abuse in Health Care'', 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

February 28, Subcommittee on Energy and Power; and Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, joint hearing entitled ''The Nuclear Regulatory Commission: Policy and Governance Challenges'', 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services,; February 26, Full Committee, meeting to adopt the Committee's budget views and estimates for fiscal year 2014, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

February 27, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, February 26, Subcommittee on Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled ''Demonstrations in Tahrir Square: Two Years Later, What Has Changed?'', 11 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

February 26, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing entitled ''The Rebalance to Asia: Why South Asia Matters (Part I)'' 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

February 27, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled ''Anti-Semitism: A Growing Threat to All Faiths'', 9 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

February 27, Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia and Emerging Threats; and Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade, joint hearing entitled ''Islamist Militant Threats to Eurasia'', 1 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

February 28, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled ''Overview of U.S. Interests in the Western Hemisphere: Opportunities and Challenges'', 9:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, February 26, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, hearing entitled ''What Does a Secure Border Look Like?'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, February 26, Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law, hearing entitled ''Competition and Bankruptcy in the Airline Industry: The Proposed Merger of American Airlines and US Airways'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

February 26, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, hearing entitled ''Agricultural Labor: From H–2A to a Workable Agricultural Guestworker Program'', 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

February 27, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Drones and the War On Terror: When Can the U.S. Target Alleged American Terrorists Overseas?'', 2:30 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

February 27, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Protection, hearing entitled ''How E-Verify Works and How it Benefits American Employers and Workers'', 2:30 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

February 28, Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law, hearing entitled ''Obama Administration's Regulatory War on Jobs, the Economy, and America's Global Competitiveness'', 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, February 26, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation, hearing entitled ''State Forest Management: A Model for Promoting Healthy Forests, Rural Schools and Jobs'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, February 26, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Job Creation and Regulatory Affairs, hearing entitled ''Bailout Rewards: The Treasury Department's Continued Approval of Excessive Pay for Executives at Taxpayer-Funded Companies'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

February 27, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Time to Reform Information Technology Acquisition: The Federal IT Acquisition Reform Act'', 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

February 27, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service and the Census, hearing entitled ''The Road Less Traveled: Reducing Federal Travel and Conference Spending'', 1:30 p.m. 2247 Rayburn.

February 27, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled ''Failures in Managing Federal Real Property: Billions in Losses'', 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, February 26, Full Committee, hearing on S. 47, the ''Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013'', 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, February 26, Subcommittee on Technology; and Subcommittee on Research, joint hearing entitled ''Cyber R&D Challenges and Solutions'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

February 26, Subcommittee on the Environment, hearing entitled ''Mid-Level Ethanol Blends: Consumer and Technical Research Needs'', 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

February 27, Subcommittee on Space, hearing entitled ''A Review of The Space Leadership Preservation Act'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

February 28, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled ''Top Challenges For Science Agencies: Reports from the Inspectors General—Part 1'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, February 27, Full Committee, meeting on Committee's Views and Estimates on the Small Business Administration FY 2014 Budget, 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

February 28, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade, hearing entitled ''Small Business Trade Agenda: Opportunities in the 113th Congress'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, February 26, Subcommittee Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled ''Coast Guard Mission Balance'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

February 27, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled ''Implementation of the FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act: One Year Later'' 10:30 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, February 27, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Electronic Health Record U-turn: Are VA and DoD Headed in the Wrong Direction?'', 9:15 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, February 26, Full Committee, meeting on the Committee on Ways and Means Views and Estimates Submission Letter, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

February 26, Subcommittee on Health, organizational meeting, 10:20 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

February 26, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Examining Traditional Medicare's Benefit Design'', 10:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

February 26, Subcommittee on Social Security, organizational meeting of the Subcommittee on Social Security Agenda for the 113th Congress, 2:30 p.m., 1105 Longworth.

February 27, Subcommittee on Human Resources, hearing entitled ''Increasing Adoptions from Foster Care'', 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

February 28, Subcommittee on Human Resources, hearing entitled ''The Proposed Waiver of Work Requirements in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program'', 9 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: February 28, to hold hearings to examine the state of the United States economy, focusing on economic growth and job creation, and what Congress can do to boost them, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, February 26

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Charles Timothy Hagel, of Nebraska, to be Secretary of Defense, and at approximately 12 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination, upon reconsideration.

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

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, February 26

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of the following measure under suspension of the rules: H. Res. 77, establishing an academic competition in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics among students in Congressional districts.

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