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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOLLY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 17, 2014.

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

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE END OF LIFE REPORT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, for the last 6 years, I have been spending a significant amount of time making sure that the Federal Government is a better partner in helping families as they deal with some of the most difficult times they will ever encounter, as a loved one enters their last stage of life.

This often involves an elderly spouse or relative, but not necessarily. This is a challenge that faces all of us, regardless of age, health, or family circumstance. The youngest, healthiest, most vital member of your office could suffer an accident or come down with a disease this afternoon.

We all must at some point face this challenge that requires that we do a better job of meeting those needs, helping our families understand the circumstances and choices and that we make their wishes known, and that those wishes are respected.

This afternoon there is an important landmark in this effort to protect families, as the Institute of Medicine releases key facts and recommendations on improving the quality and honoring individual preferences at the end of life. It is entitled ''Dying in America,'' sort of a jarring title, but it should be required reading for everyone in government, health care, insurance, anyone who is involved with this complex web that should be supportive of families in their time of need, but too often fails them.

This report makes clear that most people nearing the end of life are not physically, mentally, or cognitively able to make their own decisions about care, and that the majority of those patients will receive acute care from physicians who don't even know them.

The default is often for more hospital days, intensive care, and emergency care, which means that there are more transitions about care settings, which can be unnerving for patients and complicate their care. All this combines to jeopardize the quality of end of life care, while obviously adding to its cost and complexity.

This panel of experts, after months of intense study, makes a compelling case that we all should be working to provide comprehensive care for individuals nearing end of life, how it should be seamless, high quality, integrated, patient-centered, family-oriented, and consistently accessible around the clock.

It should be tailored to the needs and desires of the families, and the resources that we can save by doing it right can be redirected to enhance the quality of their last days. Often done right, it will enable them to live longer as well as more comfortably.

This report is an opportunity for all of us to step back and make sure we are doing everything we can to play our part in meeting the critical responsibilities not just for our constituents, but for our family members.

Dr. PHIL ROE and I have introduced H.R. 1173, the Personalize Your Care Act. There are 60 bipartisan cosponsors focusing on the Federal Government placing value on this relationship, on these critical conversations, and empowering families and patients to control the circumstances that matter so much to them.

We strongly urge that everyone looks at this Institute of Medicine report and that you cosponsor the Personalize Your Care Act. I congratulate the Institute for the careful research, the clear analysis, and the strong recommendations. It is an important step to make sure that critical assistance to support our families, that they deserve and demand, is available.

HONORING JAMES C. RUSSELL

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Mr. James C. Russell, master distiller at the Wild Turkey Distillery in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, and to mark the event of his 60th year in the industry.

Mr. Russell, or Jimmy as he is warmly known to family, friends, and acquaintances alike, is the living example of the maxim that you ought to do what you love. Born into a family of distillers just 3 miles from the Wild Turkey Distillery in Lawrenceburg,

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Jimmy has been instrumental in the craftsmanship of nearly every barrel since he began working at the facility on September 10, 1954, when he was just 19 years old.

Since becoming master distiller in the late 1960s, Jimmy has been prolific, distilling more than 3 million barrels with his keen eye for detail and palette for flavor. When he is not in Lawrenceburg overseeing production, Jimmy is traveling the world as one of perhaps the most famous ambassadors for Kentucky's signature bourbon industry.

Mr. Russell has seen the ebbs and flows of the industry over the years and has been a key player in fostering the recent explosive growth of bourbon. Treated like a rock star wherever he goes, as adoring fans clamor for his autograph or a bottle of American Honey or his Russell Reserve, the indefatigable spirit of this Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Famer, or the so-called ''Buddha of Bourbon,'' will help guide the bourbon industry long into the future. Jimmy's son Eddie, himself a Hall of Famer, will ensure that the family's time-honored tradition of producing complex, finely honed bourbons continues into the fourth generation.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join Jimmy's friends, family, fans, and fellow master distillers in raising a toast to celebrate Mr. Russell's contributions to a distinctively American and Kentucky industry on this momentous anniversary. I know I speak for millions more across the country and around the world when I say that I look forward to enjoying the fruits of Jimmy's labor for many more years to come.

WOMEN OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, the success of our districts and the livelihood and future of our communities relies heavily on the devotion and service of those who go above the call of duty. The helpers willing to devote their time and energy to improving the lives of those around them deserve to be recognized.

This fall, through my 2014 Women of the Year awards, I have made an effort to recognize, honor, and celebrate the vital contributions of outstanding women in my district. Through their work or volunteerism, these women have all vastly improved the quality of life in their communities.

My office will recognize the achievements of Pat Ash, Marci Coglianese, Deborah Eernisse, Gloria Estrada, Lee Ann Grigsby-Puente, Mary Grimmer, Samina Masood, Dr. Frances Nelson, Gloria Partida, Linda Plummer, Lonetta Riley, Denise Rushing, Michelle Scully, and Nicole Van Vleck.

These are exemplary examples of sacrifice and devotion. These civic leaders have helped improve their communities in various ways. They are advocates for education, agriculture, flood protection, environmental stewardship, the arts, promoting healthy communities, organizing events to promote world peace, and raising community awareness to end bullying.

Throughout our history, America's foremothers have made great strides in securing their equal rights and equal treatment under the law. And while we have come very far, there is still work to be done. We stand on the shoulders of those giants, but that does not mean we should cease to reach further.

The success these women have had in their lives translates directly to the success of their communities. The correlation is undeniable. When women succeed, our communities succeed, and our States succeed. ''When women succeed, America succeeds.''

I will continue to work to shape a Nation that fosters possibilities, opportunities, and equity for women. A large component of that mission is the Economic Agenda for Women and Families, which highlights three areas of importance.

The first is pay. Women in this country make only 77 cents for every dollar earned by men doing exactly the same work. For African American and Latino women, the pay gap widens to 64 cents and 55 cents to the man's dollar. The minimum wage has not kept up with inflation, and when adjusted is more than 30 percent lower than it was in 1968. This is an unacceptable impediment to our success, and particularly the success of women.

Women cannot succeed if wages are inequitable or insufficient. Paycheck fairness and increase in the minimum wage that includes tipped workers are just two solutions that will begin to mend the chasm created by the wage gap.

The second area is work and family balance. The lack of policy ensuring earned paid sick days and paid maternity leave is, quite frankly, appalling. Our inaction on ensuring work and family balance not only affects the lives of parents, but the lives and the development of their children.

The third area is child care. The passage of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 in the House of Representatives is a good first step towards ensuring access to child care, but there is still much more to be done.

Ensuring the success of women, and thereby the success of America, is imperative. I am proud and extremely thankful to have these women working and serving in the communities I represent. The devotion, care, and service shown by them, and by those like them, are what make my district and America succeed.

OPPOSITION TO ARMING SYRIAN REBELS

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, we will be asked as a Congress later today to vote on authorization of the President's request to arm Syrian rebels.

I rise this morning to oppose the President's request, and I do so with a heart of conviction that says we must do more to combat, confront, defeat, and destroy ISIS, but also with the conviction, respectfully, that the President's request is simply wrong.

ISIS constitutes a direct threat to the national security of the United States. My belief on this is clear. I was one of a little over a dozen Members of Congress to recently introduce legislation authorizing the President to do more.

We must eradicate the ISIS regime that perverts a religion founded on peace and uses it as a platform to engage in crucifixions and beheadings and mass murders.

But I oppose today's request because it fails to seek the full authorization of this body. It fails to seek a clear mandate of the American people and because it asks this body to approve only one small portion of an overall strategy that is continuing to evolve. And that portion is most controversial, most questioned, and most vulnerable to failure.

We should be here today as a Congress debating whether we are a Nation at war, whether ISIS constitutes a direct threat to the national security of the United States, and if we are at war, we as a Congress should be asking the question: Are we fully engaged as a Nation to defeat ISIS, and are we fully committed to accepting the consequences and the casualties required to do so? But that is not what today's vote is about.

Today's vote is whether we as a Nation put our reliance on Syrian rebels, and that leaves far too many unanswered questions. We tried this in Iraq, to mixed results. We know Syrian rebels—we know this—some will cooperate with ISIS and, in fact, contribute to the additional killings of Syrian Christians and religious minorities. Are we prepared as a body to accept those collateral casualties of terror?

We know training will take months. What will we be doing tomorrow? We know Russia has declared this will be an act of aggression. What is our Nation's response, and what is this body's response? And how does today's debate contribute to our Article 1, Section 8 authority under the Constitution? Are we quietly allying with the Syrian Government, a regime that 18 months ago we said we wanted to topple, or is this an act of aggression against Syria's sovereignty? And where is this Congress in this debate?

The final question is: Do we seriously think, as the President portends, that this will not require a single pair of boots of our Special Operations community to touch Syrian soil? Do we

truly rely on Syrian rebels to lay the targets for our elite air assets?

There are boots on the ground today. We can call them military advisers, but the fact is the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff yesterday said, if necessary, he would recommend putting them in a combat role. We are not having that debate here on the floor of the House.

The American people deserve a President and a Congress that are honest about what we face as a Nation militarily. The doubt in this debate in this Congress has been palpable. We question the strategy, we question the trust of Syrian rebels, we question our constitutional responsibility, and yet we are prepared as a body to ignore all doubt, to ignore our uncomfortable conviction of opposition to this request simply out of a desperate hope that somehow this matter might resolve itself without the President and the Congress having a hard conversation, recognizing that we are a war weary and tired Nation faced again with an asymmetric threat from terrorists who have threatened our homeland.

We want to believe the beheadings and the audible threats of terror to our shores is not real, but we know it is. We as a Nation do not have the luxury to choose what threats confront us; we only choose our response.

So my request of my colleagues in this House is that we have a full debate on what we face as a Nation. The President has brought us this very limited request merely out of statutory convenience, not out of constitutional conviction. We should not accept that.

My request of the President is this: very respectfully, do not trample on the constitutional authority of this Congress as you reluctantly march to the drumbeat of war that you are rightfully hesitant to engage in and with an elusive strategy that leaves so many unanswered questions today.

This body should have a full debate. The American people deserve to know that the President has requested full authorization and this Congress has had an opportunity to deliberate on it. I reluctantly oppose the request today, knowing we must do so much more to confront ISIS. I ask my colleagues to do the same.

CONGRESS AND THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE

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

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, later today we are likely to see bipartisan support for an amendment to authorize the Secretaries of Defense and State to provide limited assistance to properly vetted factions within the Syrian opposition as part of the broader effort to ''degrade, and ultimately destroy'' the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. The President specifically asked Congress to provide these authorities, and I somewhat reluctantly will agree to support it.

But I want to add a caution, that this action should not be interpreted as granting congressional authorization for the broader use of military force to combat the growing threat posed by ISIL. Quite the contrary, the amendment specifically prohibits the introduction of U.S. Armed Forces into hostilities absent such explicit authorization.

Now, the President asserts he already has the authority to confront ISIL. In his most recent notification to Congress, he cites the executive's constitutional authority ''to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief . . .'' While this issue has been the subject of long-simmering debate between our branches and among historians and scholars, I would modestly note that the Constitution explicitly grants to Congress, and only to Congress, the power to declare war. If there are inherent unenumerated powers in the role of Commander in Chief, most surely logic dictates there are similar inherent, unenumerated powers Congress is vested in with our role to declare war.

Let us make no mistake, we are confronting here on this issue a matter of war and peace. Yet, in the same breath we are discussing the danger, we are preparing to shutter Congress for another 7 weeks until after the election.

The President said he welcomes congressional support for this effort to show the world we are ''united in confronting this danger.'' I am glad he welcomes congressional input, but I, for one, believe the President actually needs specific congressional authority, whether he wants it or not, for what he himself acknowledges will be a prolonged campaign to eradicate the cancer-like ISIL. Anything short of that is an abrogation of our sworn duty to defend and uphold the Constitution of the United States.

This isn't President Obama trampling on the Constitution. This is Congress, in a long 60-year history, of winking and blinking about our responsibility because we don't want to bear it. But on matters of war and peace, we either live up to our constitutional responsibility, which is quite clear, or we go on a 7-week recess.

My colleagues know there are historical cases in which congressional acquiescence has been construed to confer support or authorization where none has been given. The Gulf of Tonkin resolution is certainly a case in point. It led to a prolonged war and 55,000 U.S. deaths.

The 93rd Congress adopted the War Powers Resolution to reassert Congress' role after both Korea and Vietnam. The War Powers Resolution requires the President to consult with Congress prior to introducing American forces into hostilities.

The administration has recently argued that the aerial strikes do not constitute hostilities because they don't involve sustained fighting. But again, out of the President's own words, he said last week this would be ''a comprehensive and sustained effort.'' That doesn't sound like a temporary action by the Commander in Chief.

And to put an even finer point on the issue, I remind my colleagues of H. Con. Res. 105, which was adopted in July, that prohibits the President from deploying or maintaining U.S. Armed Forces in a sustained combat role in Iraq without specific statutory authorization.

I agree with the President when he said we are strongest as a Nation when the President and Congress work together. On the most important issue we ever vote on, war and peace, we must come together, and this branch must live up to its constitutional responsibility at long last.

FIGHTING THE ISLAMIC STATE

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, contrary to the President's assertion last week, the Islamic State is Islamic and it is a State, or at least it has all the attributes of a State. It is precisely this combination that makes it so dangerous, a messianic and clearly stated intention to wage jihad on American soil and the resources and equipment to do so.

In response to this danger, the President proposes that the United States wage a continuing air war against the Islamic State, but to avoid any commitment of ground forces. Instead, he seeks to use vetted elements of the Free Syrian Army as the American proxy force and proposes to arm and train them for that purpose.

This raises two major concerns. First, many elements of the Free Syrian Army have a long history of collaborating with the Islamic State. Its principal mission is to destroy the Syrian Government, which though utterly despotic, is currently fighting the Islamic State. We court a very real risk that this equipment will either be turned against Syria as it fights the IS, or turned over to the IS as elements of Iraqi Security Forces recently did.

Second, committing insufficient force in any conflict is self-defeating, and air strikes alone cannot win a war. For 13 years, the brave young Americans who stepped forward to defend our country after 9/11 have found themselves hamstrung by political correctness on the battlefield, perilously commingled with hostile forces, endangered by rules of engagement that undermine their ability to defend themselves, and denied the full resources and commitment of our country.

We are in precarious times, with an administration that either cannot or will not learn from the mistakes of the past. Until we are prepared to put the full might and resources of our Nation behind a war against the Islamic State, we can at least act to contain IS advances, protect our people, and restore

the martial strength and national will that will certainly be needed in the years ahead.

First, I believe the President is correct to order selected air strikes in tactical support of resistance forces where they are actively engaged against the IS. Where we can turn the tide of battle in these engagements, we must. And the immediate destruction of oil fields under IS control is vital to reduce the resources that it is currently converting to cash.

Second, it is appropriate to take immediate, significant, and focused retaliatory strikes against the Islamic State in response to specific acts that it commits against American interests. This is the Reagan model in Libya, and it worked.

Third, the direct threat posed to the United States by the IS is not on Syrian or Iraqi soil, but on American soil. The Islamic State has been explicit in declaring its intention to insert a Fifth Column within our borders and wage jihad on Americans. For far too long we have ignored the threat posed by a wide open southern border, lax enforcement on the northern border, and nonenforcement of visa overstays. And this neglect needs to stop now. We must secure our borders, enforce the time limits on visas, and change the law to revoke the passports of any American who takes up arms for the Islamic State.

Fourth, we must recognize that the improving world situation that justified reducing military spending in recent years has now reversed, and so must our priorities. The world is now becoming more dangerous and unstable, and our military budget must be adjusted to meet that growing danger. Our Nation's weakened fiscal condition requires a comprehensive review of our spending priorities as a matter of vital national security.

Fifth, we must assure that our only reliable ally in the Middle East, Israel, has all the equipment and supplies and assistance it may need in coming years, and that it will have the unqualified support of the United States when it must take action for its own security.

Mr. Speaker, Islamic fascism is now advancing into a vacuum that many past blunders have created, the worst of them being to underestimate the terrible demands that war requires. These are mistakes we can no longer afford to make. Confronting the rise of European fascism in the 1930s, Churchill counseled measured resistance where possible, while undertaking utmost martial preparation. That advice lights our path that we must take today.

ANYTHING FOR FOOTBALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, ''anything for football.'' It is a phrase I have heard a lot recently, that we should ignore what happens off the field for the sake of the sport.

This creed used to mean something positive. Vince Lombardi, the namesake of the Super Bowl trophy, said he viewed his players as ''neither black nor white, but Packer green.'' ''Anything for football'' meant he had to fight racism and homophobia off the field to coach the best football team possible.

Recently, ''anything for football'' has been used to justify an organization that perpetuates violence and sexism rather than teamwork, family, and sport. Instead of fighting injustice off the field for the sake of the sport, the NFL chooses deafening silence. We are told to ignore what happens on the sidelines, in disciplinary boardrooms, or behind elevator doors, all for the sport. Well, I refuse to ignore what is happening.

The NFL thinks they can play by their own rules. As we saw in the Ray Rice case, these decisions go all the way to the top. Commissioner Roger Goodell is judge and jury, yet he is also the one who stands to profit by seeing these cases hushed and unpunished.

Since he took over the NFL in 2006, there have been 56 arrests of players for domestic violence. The NFL has been inconsistent in its response, ranging from counseling, to single game suspensions, to conditional fines, to nothing at all.

After a player is arrested, more often than not they continue to play, even if there is clear evidence for their violent crime. When a police officer is being investigated for domestic violence, they are suspended with pay until the investigation ends. If the NFL is serious about zero tolerance, why shouldn't it play by the same rules?

Of the 56 football players arrested for domestic violence, they only saw a combined 13 games suspended. The NFL would rather see these players on the field than take a stance against violence. After all, ''anything for football.'' I say, ''Bench them.''

Ray McDonald of the San Francisco 49ers was arrested at a party after his fiancee, who was 10 weeks pregnant, showed police bruises on her neck and arms. He has played the last 2 weeks. Why hasn't he been benched? ''Anything for football.'' I am an avid 49er fan, but this is disgusting. I expect more from my 49ers.

Greg Hardy of the Carolina Panthers was arrested and convicted for assaulting his former girlfriend. The woman said Hardy picked her up, choked her, threw her on a couch covered in assault rifles and shotguns, and bragged to her that they were loaded. He is appealing his case and still playing. Why hasn't he been benched? ''Anything for football.''

Ray Rice of the Baltimore Ravens, who was indicted in March with assaulting his then-fiancee, has finally received a punishment befitting his crime, but only after a video of the actual event was released. After he was indicted, his coach, John Harbaugh, said, ''He will be part of our team. Support the person without condoning the action.'' Why wasn't he benched from the start? ''Anything for football.''

The list goes on and on. Like the military and universities, the NFL thinks they can enforce their own justice internally. They have failed. The NFL should change their policies so that these players stay on the bench while they are investigated.

This week I will send a letter to Commissioner Goodell and team owners, calling on them to immediately change their domestic violence policy. When a player is arrested for domestic violence, the NFL should immediately suspend the player and continue to pay them until a preponderance of the evidence determines their guilt or innocence. This suspension should continue until the end of court proceedings, when the NFL can then apply its player policy. It is what we do with police officers. This is what zero tolerance looks like.

Two-thirds of all Americans watch the NFL. Let us work together to put an end to the NFL's inaction. Lombardi didn't just think we could fight racism through football. He said, ''People who work together will win, whether it be against complex football defenses or the problems of modern society.''

It may be difficult, but we deserve sports that show the best in our society. After all, ''anything for football.''

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4194. An act to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1214. An act to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government.

S. 2117. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 2440. An act to expand and extend the program to improve permit coordination by the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes,

S. 2511. An act to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify the definition of substantial cessation of operations.

S. 2539. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to traumatic brain injury and to trauma research.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106–286, the Chair, on behalf of the President of the

Senate, and after consultation with the Majority Leader, reappoints the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China:

The Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) vice the Senator from Montana (Mr. Baucus).

ONLY CONGRESS DECLARES WAR

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

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the plan that has been put forward by the President. As you, Mr. Speaker, just noted a few moments ago, it is a small portion of a larger and, what I believe to be, fundamentally flawed plan.

I say that for many different reasons, one of which is the simple reality that body bags from a far off battle or from a far off war don't return to Washington, D.C. They return to congressional districts and States across this country. It is for that very reason that the Founding Fathers believed so strongly in Congress having the authority, and the sole authority, for the declaration of war.

I mean, I think it is important to look to what James Wilson, who happened to be one of the biggest advocates for a strong Presidency, said to his own State delegation back in 1787. He said on the importance of congressional authority with regard to war:

> This system will not hurry us into war. It is calculated to guard against it. It will not be in the power of a single man or a single body of men to involve us in such distress, for the important power of declaring war is vested at the legislative level at large.

George Washington said this:

> The Constitution vests the power of declaring war in Congress. Therefore, no offensive expedition of importance can be undertaken until after they shall have deliberated upon the subject and authorized such a measure.

James Madison said this:

> The power to declare war, including the power of judging the causes of war, is fully and exclusively vested in the legislature. The Executive has no right in any case to decide the question whether there is or is not cause for declaring war.

I think our Founding Fathers had it right, and if we move forward today without stopping and waiting and insisting upon the President's constitutional duty to come before this body and ask for a declaration of war, I think we are making a mistake.

I would say, secondly, that I think we are making a mistake because the news of today is that General Dempsey now says if the plan doesn't work out, he would in fact recommend American ground troops there in this crisis in the Middle East. I think that that is telling. Because if you stop and think about it, is America the only group that is expected to suffer through the ravages of war with regard to boots on the ground in this instant if General Dempsey's call is right?

Think about this. There have been 6,600 American deaths there in that part of the world in recent history. There have been more than 50,000 soldiers that have returned with life-altering wounds. I mean, their lives are changed forever, and yet we can't get a real firm commitment out of allies there in the Middle East as to what they will or won't do with regard to ground troops.

So if it is that big a threat, why is it that allies in that part of the world are not making real and substantial commitments with regard to what they will or won't do with regard to ground troops?

Thirdly, I would say what we are doing is we are signing up for an open-ended commitment, maybe a 5- or a 10- or a 15- or a 20-year commitment, without legal authority to do so. The administration is resting solely on the 2001 authorizing language, which was to President Bush, in the wake of 9/11, for pursuing perpetrators of 9/11.

And yet in this instance what they are saying is, well, no, no, that gives us authority for the next 10, 15, 20 years. That is not the case. Congress authorized for that action. I think it is a misreading of the law to move forward as they have.

Finally, I would make this point. The Bible says, ''Be hot, be cold, but don't be lukewarm.'' And I think this plan is predicated on lukewarm. I have some colleagues who say we need to commit ground troops; we need firmer involvement. I have others who say we don't need to do anything at all. And we are splitting it right down the middle. Let's bomb a bit and let's arm ''moderate rebels'' and we see how that works.

We have a snapshot of how that works because just this spring 1,000 ISIS soldiers routed two divisions of Iraqis, about 30,000 folks, in no time. Mind you, these are the same folks that American taxpayers spent $25 billion training and equipping. We equipped about 200,000 of them. It has not worked well.

I think we need to pause, first, for constitutional reasons; second, for legal authority reasons; and third, for a flawed strategy that is based on lukewarm. We have that chance today, and I would beg of my colleagues to do so.

STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, our number one priority should always be strengthening our economy and expanding job growth and opportunity.

That is why I launched the ''Brad At Your Business'' initiative, to hear firsthand about the opportunities and challenges facing the businesses in my district.

So far I have visited more than 80 companies, speaking with owners, managers, and employees about their aspirations and needs for achieving success. I have spoken with some of the largest companies in our country, but also to small- and medium-sized businesses; second-, third-, and fourth-generation family firms, startups, advanced manufacturing companies, retail, and service firms.

Throughout these visits, I have heard several recurring themes, including concerns about our growing skills gap, our aging infrastructure, the need to reform our broken immigration system, and the need to modernize our Tax Code to successfully compete in a global economy.

These conversations have subsequently led to concrete actions, such as introducing the AMERICA Works Act and the LEARN Act, that will help better match worker training programs to specific employer needs.

If we are to successfully lead a resurgence of the U.S. economy, we need more collaboration between our business owners, workers, and elected officials.

Only by working together can we reignite social mobility, rebuild the ladders of opportunity, and achieve a more inclusive prosperity for all Americans.

MORE DEBATE NEEDED ON WAR VOTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is 10:40, September 17, 2014. And for me, this is an historic event, because I will be able to tell my grandkids and those who would listen that on the eve of the House of Representatives taking a vote that would expand the war powers of the President of the United States, that I stood in the well of the House talking to a House that was void of any Member of the House of Representatives.

I make this point not so much to indicate the importance of anything I might say this morning, but because I really think that the whole country should be concerned about the gravity and importance of the vote that we take today, which in my 44 years I cannot think of any vote that is more important and certainly more historic.

It goes unchallenged that the vote today would expose more members of the military to bodily harm. It is clear that the administration has called this a war on ISIS or ISIL. It is abundantly clear that the threat to our national security is subject to a whole lot of debate. And while I may not have the answer to whether or not there is a threat, to me, I cannot think of anything more important than the 435 Members of the House and the 100 Members of the other body, at least before we vote, to be able to debate this issue.

I intend to vote against the amendment that would include an expansion of our military venture, which means

that I will be forced to vote against the concurrent resolution. But I think the House Members, Republicans and Democrats, should resent the fact that these votes are combined into one vote.

The vote as to whether or not it is constitutional, the vote as to whether or not it is a threat to the United States security, the vote as to how we are going to pay for it, the vote in terms of who is going to make the sacrifices, these are the things that should be debated. There is no lawful reason why these two issues have to be joined in one vote.

I do hope I get an opportunity to bring an amendment to the authority of the President to use military force by conditioning it to two things: that if this Congress and the American people believe that we have a threat to our national security, then by all means we should be prepared to make the sacrifices to protect our country.

What are those sacrifices? Well, one is financial sacrifice. Because the trillions of dollars that was spent—I think it is close to $6 trillion since we have been involved in the Middle East—most of the profits have been made by the military industrial complex. But the $6 trillion comes out of our budget, and there is not a war tax. I think we need that.

The other question has to be that we cannot dismiss the military that is in Iraq today and those that may be in that area, whose lives are endangered. That is less than 1 percent of United States population is making the sacrifice. We already lost 6,800 American lives in this war, and it is very difficult to explain to their families and friends at funerals what the cause was or whether we won or lost.

But the question should be once we make a determination that there is a threat to our national security, we should have the mandatory Selective Service Act reinstated. We already have it on the books. We should activate it to make certain that if you are voting to put more men and women's lives into jeopardy, make certain it is universal men and women would be selected to make certain that they provide for a national service of some sort.

So what I am suggesting is that I can never believe that this country would be voting this day and that the debates would be that I would be talking to an empty Chamber in pleading for the American people that if you are going to make a decision that we should really go to war, because there is a threat to the security of the United States of America, one, that should not be debated just on the question of the continuance of support of the budget of the United States.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 46 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Joseph Holcomb, St. Andrew Avellino Catholic Church, Flushing, New York, offered the following prayer:

All powerful and merciful God, we praise You and give You thanks for all Your gracious gifts, most especially the gift of Your infinite and unconditional love.

It is Your gift of love that inspires and drives us to seek peace throughout our Nation and our world to gain an awareness that we share a common destiny which is ultimately transcendent, peace that is not the mere absence of war but as a harmonious coexistence of individual citizens within a society governed by justice, one in which the good is also achieved for each of them.

Help us through Your gift of love to work diligently in these coming days, months, and years to seek peace for all.

May our deliberations in this, the United States House of Representatives, bring about understanding, tolerance, and peace in our great Nation and the world.

We pray this in Your holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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.

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

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

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PAYNE 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND JOSEPH HOLCOMB

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my colleagues to Father Joseph T. Holcomb, the guest chaplain today.

Father Holcomb serves St. Andrew Avellino Roman Catholic Church in Queens, New York.

A native New Yorker, Father Holcomb attended Holy Family Catholic Grammar School, Cathedral Preparatory Seminary, Cathedral College of the Immaculate Conception, and Seminary of the Immaculate Conception.

He went on to attain a bachelor's degree from Cathedral College in Douglaston, New York. He also received a master's degree in divinity from Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington, New York, and a master's in social work from Fordham University in New York City.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 1980 and has been faithfully serving multiple communities ever since. In July 2009, he was appointed as the sixth pastor of St. Andrew Avellino Roman Catholic Church and has worked tirelessly to make improvements where possible.

His efforts have led to crucial enhancements in the church and an enriched connection with its parishioners. Father Holcomb's work in the church has touched thousands of lives, and we are so privileged to have him in the Queens community.

Father Holcomb is a pillar of leadership and faith in my district. I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Father Holcomb to the House of Representatives and to thank him for serving as our guest chaplain today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAINES). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION DAY

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 227 years ago, our Founding Fathers came together to write the Constitution, and it is on this foundation that we have built the greatest

Nation on Earth. The Constitution protects our democracy and our individual liberties that define the American way of life that we are all blessed to enjoy.

I have spent most of my life defending what the Constitution stands for, 29 years in the United States Air Force and now in the United States Congress. I consider this to be an honor and a privilege.

We can all do our part to defend America's freedom by understanding and remembering our Constitution's significance. That is why today, on national Constitution Day, I encourage all Americans to join me in reflecting on the history and the meaning of this important document. We must never take our freedom for granted.

ONE NEWARK PLAN

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am concerned about the Newark Public Schools' One Newark plan which picks winners and losers among schools and students.

Earlier this year, I sent a letter to the superintendent of Newark Public Schools, Cami Anderson. I am deeply troubled by its actions which ignore efforts to strengthen traditional public schools; further, I question whether the One Newark plan will truly help realize this vision for all students in the Newark public school system, especially children with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I sent this letter in February. More than 5 months later, I have yet to receive a single response. The people I represent are very upset over the lack of answers and the complete disregard for their concerns, and they have a right to be upset.

The opening of the schools in the Newark public school system this year was a debacle. There have been protests, and there will continue to be until the voices of the people are heard.

We are talking about the future of Newark, the future of our district, the future of our State, and the children that we love.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

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

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This landmark legislation was initially passed in 1964, permanently paving the way for the protection and growth of our Nation's natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, New York's 19th Congressional District is home to some of the most amazing scenery in the Nation. Constituents in our district can walk and bike in the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys; they can hike through the Catskill Mountains and paddle along the streams that feed into the Hudson River.

I'm proud to say my constituents know how important it is to preserve and protect our land. The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been a tremendous success for New York State.

It has been estimated that outdoor recreational activity supports over 300,000 jobs for New York and that over 4 million New Yorkers participate in hunting, fishing, and viewing wildlife each year.

Additionally, my district benefits from the Forest Legacy Program funded under the LWCF. This program helps States preserve and maintain their forest land.

Mr. Speaker, next year, we will have the opportunity to reauthorize LWCF. I would encourage all my colleagues in the House and Senate to reflect on the legislation's success, recognize our Nation's legacy of historic beauty, and to support the reauthorization next year.

CLEAN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of clean energy sources and the leading role America is poised to play in this field.

Earlier this summer, the company SolarCity announced its intention to open one of the largest solar production plants in the world in Buffalo, New York. This display of renewable energy would be a tremendous addition to the western New York community through the creation of over 1,000 jobs; however, the continued growth in renewable energy is dependent on Congress enacting the right policies.

This is why we must extend the solar investment tax credits which are due to expire at the end of 2016. We also need to ensure that consumers selling energy back to the grid are able to do so at predictable and fair prices.

That is why today I have sent a letter to the Secretary of Energy urging his office to formulate best practices for net metering. This allows those who generate their own electricity from solar power to feed what they do not use back to the grid.

Just as the Buffalo Niagara region was an early adopter of hydroelectricity, we intend to be a leader in clean energy technologies like solar power as well.

COMMEMORATING THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, since the U.S. Marshals Service was founded on September 24 of 1789, U.S. marshals have served this country with dedication and distinction, upholding its creed of ''Justice, Integrity, Service.'' I rise today to commemorate the service's 225th anniversary.

The U.S. Marshals Service will celebrate its birthday next week in my district by breaking ground on the U.S. Marshals Museum in Fort Smith, Arkansas. The museum will be funded in part by the sale of coins commemorating the 225th anniversary of the Marshals Service.

The museum's 20,000 square feet will highlight pivotal moments in our oldest Federal law enforcement agency's history and pay proper tribute to the heroism the marshals have shown over the past 225 years.

I speak for all of my constituents in the Third District of Arkansas and my fellow Arkansans when I say we are humbled to have the U.S. Marshals Museum make Fort Smith its home and honored to play a prominent role in the next 225 years of the U.S. marshals history.

Happy birthday, U.S. marshals.

PROTECTING OUR HOMELAND AND OUR HOMELIFE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the value of our Constitution. I just left the Homeland Security hearing on the horror of ISIL and held up the Constitution to say that we will not allow terrorists to undermine our values, and I am grateful that we live under the Constitution that we do.

With that in mind, I encourage my colleagues to join me on H.R. 5488, a bill that I have introduced that would call for the reviewing and looking at the watch list to make sure that no foreign fighters are left off of that list and that there is a no fly for foreign fighters, again, reminding us of the processes which we use, and I hope that there will be those who will do so.

I also want to acknowledge the fact that we are facing economic growth, but we are also experiencing problems. All I hear from the NFL are the expression of problems. I sent a letter to Director Goodell of the NFL, the commissioner, to say, ''Put your resources where your complaints are.''

There are so many groups that are dealing with violence against women and abuse of children that we need to provide the NFL the resources to all of those groups. We need the NFL wives to be engaged. Stop talking, and let's do something.

This is disgraceful, but there is an epidemic of domestic violence, and the NFL can stand up and announce a major funding—as my colleague in the Senate has indicated—to be able to lift all of these groups that struggle every day to reach these women.

I would also add to them, put a campaign: see something, say something on

domestic violence. I ask the NFL to stand up and be counted.

THE TRIBAL GENERAL WELFARE EXCLUSION ACT OF 2013

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

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3043, the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act.

Under what is known as the general welfare doctrine, the IRS excludes a broad array of public services for purposes such as education, public safety, health, housing, and culture from taxation; however, this has not always been the case for tribal nations.

Recently, the IRS has challenged tribal general welfare programs, despite many of these being nearly identical to tax exempt programs provided by Federal, State, and local governments.

Members of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation, the Kickapoo, Iowa, and the Sac and Fox Nation in Kansas have all voiced their concerns to me about invasive IRS audits and examinations that seek to tax government programs and benefits to their members.

This bicameral and bipartisan legislation will positively affect many Native Americans and is an important step in bringing IRS treatment of the tribes in line with how they are currently treating States.

□ 1215

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, domestic violence should never, ever be tolerated. The NFL's inept response to the recent reports of domestic violence has thrust a tragic spotlight onto this issue that we all are well aware of.

The truth of the matter is domestic violence and sexual assault are daily realities for women across our Nation. One in four women will experience physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. In 2012, in part of the area that I represent in California, 6,000 domestic violence cases were reported by the Fresno Police Department. It is hard to believe, and it is unacceptable.

Today, let's make a commitment not to let this moment fade away after the headlines are gone. As a cofounder and cochair of the bipartisan Victims' Rights Caucus, we will keep working with all the victim advocate groups to strengthen the Violence Against Women Act and end the rape kit backlog and ensure that every woman has the right to a life without violence.

OUR RIGHTS COME FROM OUR CREATOR

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, 227 years ago, our Founding Fathers signed the U.S. Constitution establishing a nation united around the principle that our rights as citizens come not from the government but from our Creator.

Today we recommit ourselves by choice to upholding and defending these fundamental principles recognized in this document, including liberty, freedom, and rule of law of our great Republic. Indeed, our first act as newly elected Members of this House is to swear an oath to uphold and protect this document.

These principles have guided our Nation well over the last 227 years, both in times of prosperity as well as discord. Now, perhaps more than ever, it is our duty and it is the duty of every American to ensure these liberties and freedoms can be passed on to our children and our grandchildren.

I am honored to stand here today and commemorate the works of these 39 brave and wise original signatories to our Constitution.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, this month we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Wilderness Act, two of our Nation's most effective conservation tools.

In California, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has provided more than $2 billion to protect some of our most iconic natural landmarks. In my district alone, this includes the Point Reyes National Seashore, Redwood National Park, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and countless State parks, trails, and recreation areas. The fund uses zero taxpayer dollars for these investments in the economic and environmental well-being of our communities; instead, it is funded by revenues from offshore oil and gas activities.

We celebrate also the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, which has protected some of our Nation's most pristine and intact wild places. As climate change begins to take its toll, protecting these wild places will be even more vital to the survival of many threatened and endangered species and to the conservation values that are part of our national fabric.

This should not be a partisan issue. Every American benefits from these two important laws and the lands they protect. Please join me in supporting them for another 50 years.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN CLARKE

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Speaker, after more than 40 years in the construction trade, my friend John Clarke of Wheeling has retired.

John is a lifelong West Virginian, the former president of Local 141 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and served on the International Executive Committee of IBEW.

After serving in Vietnam with the Marine Corps, John returned home and gave back to his community, serving on over 25 local charitable and professional organizations.

IBEW International President Ed Hill has said, ''Working families in West Virginia have never had a better friend than John Clarke.'' And more importantly, in a world conflicted with partisanship, John proudly put his country first, not his political affiliation.

He made a difference. His decades of devotion to his country and his community can only be matched by his commitment to his wife of 43 years, Margaret, and his two sons, Justin and Lucas.

I extend my congratulations to John and wish him well in his retirement.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH 2014

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

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, each year from September 15 until October 15, the Nation celebrates the many contributions of Latinos during Hispanic Heritage Month.

In my home State of Texas, the Hispanic community continues to relish in the cultural and historical footprint in the areas of government, architecture, business, and the arts. From north Texas Hispanic elected officials, both past and present who are advocating for the Latino community, to the Rose Marine Theater in Fort Worth and the Latino cultural center in Dallas, Hispanic culture continues to illuminate all aspects of life and history in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

In the area of business and commerce, the contributions of business leaders continue to make the area that we live in one of the best in the entire country. Both Dallas and Tarrant Counties are fortunate to be served by very strong Hispanic chambers of commerce that proudly serve many of those businesses.

It is undeniable that Hispanic culture is woven into all aspects of contemporary American culture, and in the Dallas-Fort Worth area we are fortunate to be known as a city that is vibrant because of its strong Latino community.

HONORING JOSEPH JAMES DUNN

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

Mr. DAINES. Madam Speaker, Montana is a State blessed with people who have a strong commitment to service. In fact, more than 100,000 military veterans call our State home, and our dedicated law enforcement officials perform critical services each and every day.

On August 14, 2014, we lost a great Montanan when Cascade County sheriff deputy and Marine Corps combat veteran Joseph James Dunn the First was killed in the line of duty.

Joe put faith and family at the center of his life, going on multiple mission trips. He was described as a ''bold ambassador for Christ.'' No one was more important to Joe than his family: his dear wife, Robynn; son, Joey; and daughter, Shiloh.

Joe will be dearly missed by all who knew him. He personified service to his country, to his State, and to his community. Joe's life is an inspiration for all Montanans.

INCREASE THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, this week the House will vote on loosely related bits of campaign fodder bundled together and labeled a ''jobs'' bill. But if we really want to help American workers and boost our economy, let's take a vote to increase the minimum wage. Let's show hardworking Americans that it is simply unacceptable for a mother working full-time to live $400 below the Federal poverty line.

Let's show businesses that we understand that added buying power for our workers is the boost this economic recovery needs. President Truman once said: Full human dignity requires at least a minimum level of economic sufficiency and security.

The American people deserve that and more. The American people want and deserve a vote to increase the minimum wage.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT CONFIRMS OBAMACARE FUNDS ABORTIONS

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today disturbed by a report confirming that the Affordable Care Act provides for a massive expansion of abortion funded by the taxpayer.

This week, the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office revealed that 1,036 of the plans offered under ObamaCare and eligible for taxpayer subsidies cover abortion on demand. Although the President promised in 2009 that ''no Federal dollars would be used to fund abortions,'' the law's accounting gimmicks showed otherwise.

One of my heroes, the late honorable Henry Hyde, worked hard to ensure that no American would be forced to pay for someone else's abortion. That is why the House passed H.R. 7, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act.

Clearly, there has been a lack of full disclosure by the administration and the insurance companies who have ignored the law, a law which failed to provide adequate safeguards for the taxpayer.

Many Americans are, thus, unwittingly paying for a procedure which violates their most deeply held beliefs. It is time the administration honored both the letter and spirit of the Hyde amendment. It is time for the Senate to pass H.R. 7 and ensure no American is forced to pay for abortion.

McKEON AMENDMENT

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, as we prepare to cast our vote today to train and equip Syrian rebels, I want to remind my colleagues of the nearly $20.2 billion that the United States has spent to train and equip Iraqi security forces during our decade at war there.

And what happened?

The Iraqi security forces could not secure the country and fled major Iraqi cities when confronted by ISIS. $20.2 billion. And yet here we are again today ready to authorize hundreds of millions of dollars to train and equip members of the Free Syrian Army.

What in the world are we doing?

Instead of rushing into yet another war, flooding the region with more weapons and intervening further in a civil war, Congress should be pressing the pause button. Instead of rushing into yet another war authorization—which of course this congressional resolution says it is not, but the unintended consequences will expand this war—Congress should be examining all of the solutions to this crisis, not just the military ones.

That is why I called and will continue to call for Congress to live up to its constitutional responsibility and have a full debate on the authorization to use force. The costs and consequences should be made clear.

HONORING CONSTITUTION DAY

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, today, September 17, 2014, marks 82,910 days since the Constitution was signed in 1787. Though I have only been a United States Congressman for 469 of those days, on every one of them, I work to uphold the oath of office I swore: to defend our Nation's most important governing document, the Constitution.

On this Constitution Day, I would like to take some time to remind us all that all parts of the founding document are important. Especially in this time of executive overreach, we should remember that our Constitution created three equal and distinct branches of government.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise to add my voice to the thousands of citizens who will soon descend upon New York City to call for action to combat climate change. The first-ever People's Climate March will demonstrate robust support for climate action ahead of the United Nations climate summit next Tuesday.

Climate change is the defining challenge of our time. It threatens our economy and our way of life in countless ways through catastrophic wildfires, through severe storms and rising seas; and in my home State of California, one of the worst droughts on record threatens water supplies for drinking water and irrigation of valuable crops. This year alone, the drought will cost the agricultural sector $2.2 billion dollars and over 17,000 jobs.

Our Nation is taking positive steps to curb harmful carbon emissions, but there is so much more work that needs to be done. We can't wait any longer. Our children and our grandchildren are depending upon it.

REMEMBER PUNA

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Speaker, my home State of Hawaii is a unique and a very special place. There isn't a day that goes by that either a colleague or someone stops me to share with me a very special story about Hawaii.

I stand here today to ask that you remember us in a different way: a State with a very active volcano which is now within a residential area called the Kaohe homestead, and with lava that is flowing at a rate of 705 feet a day, soon to wipe out a major highway and who knows how many other subdivisions in its way.

This area is known as Puna, the same area which took the brunt of the hurricane, later a tropical storm, Iselle in August of this year. You know, they still have not recuperated from that storm, and now they have to contend with the lava.

So I ask my colleagues, Madam Speaker, that when we look at FEMA, Department of Agriculture, other agencies which will be able to help us, that when we look at the funding of first responders, that you remember Hawaii, you remember our Big Island, and you remember the people of Puna.

□ 1230

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

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

Mr. GARCIA. Madam Speaker, as someone who was born and raised in south Florida, I know Miami thrives on investment exports and economic development provided by the Export-Import Bank facilities—the Ex-Im Bank.

This organization will lose its authorization unless Congress acts. It is crucial to fueling a prosperous economy, not only in south Florida but the entire country.

In 2013 alone, the Ex-Im Bank supported an estimated $37.4 billion of U.S. exports and helped sustain more than 200,000 jobs. This is key. In my own district, 300 million exports since 2007.

As a percentage of the GDP, China and India provided roughly three times as much financing as we did. We need to reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank to create jobs and keep our exporters in competitive foreign markets.

I urge my colleagues to join me in working to reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank. This is an issue too important in the economy for partisan politics.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY AND INTEGRITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BACHMANN). The Chair clarifies that pursuant to section 106(b)(5)(B) of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110–315), the Speaker's appointments of May 25, 2010, and December 22, 2010, of individuals on the part of the House to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity expired on May 25, 2014.

The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 106 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110–315), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following individuals on the part of the House to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity for a term of 6 years:

Upon the recommendation of the majority leader:

Arthur E. Keiser, Fort Lauderdale, FL

William Pepicello, Scottsdale, AZ

Arthur J. Rothkopf, Washington, DC

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.

STRONGLY SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 726) strongly supporting the right of the people of Ukraine to freely determine their future, including their country's relationship with other nations and international organizations, without interference, intimidation, or coercion by other countries.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 726

Whereas the United States is strongly committed to the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine;

Whereas the United States strongly supports the right of the people of Ukraine to freely determine their future, including their country's relationship with other nations and international organizations, without interference, intimidation, or coercion by other countries;

Whereas the Russian Federation has undertaken a campaign of political, economic, and military aggression against Ukraine;

Whereas the Russian Federation's forcible occupation and illegal annexation of Crimea, its continuing support for separatist and paramilitary forces in eastern Ukraine, and its invasion of and military operations on Ukrainian territory represent gross violations of Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity and a violation of international law, including the Russian Federation's obligations under the United Nations Charter and its commitments as a participating State of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe;

Whereas the Government of Ukraine continues to exercise extraordinary restraint in response to the invasion of its territory by several thousand military personnel of the Russian Federation, who are engaged in offensive military operations in support of separatist forces, the illegal occupation and annexation of Crimea, and the tens of thousands of Russian Federation military personnel positioned offensively on the Ukrainian-Russian border since March 2014;

Whereas the forcible occupation and illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation and its continuing support for separatist and paramilitary forces in eastern Ukraine are violations of its obligations under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, in which it pledged to respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine and to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine;

Whereas the Russian Federation has provided military equipment, training, and other assistance to separatist and paramilitary forces in eastern Ukraine that has resulted in ongoing conflict that is responsible for over 3,000 deaths, hundreds of thousands of civilian refugees, and widespread destruction;

Whereas the Ukrainian military remains at a significant disadvantage compared to the armed forces of the Russian Federation in terms of size and technological sophistication;

Whereas the United States strongly supports efforts to assist Ukraine to defend its territory against military aggression by the Russian Federation and by separatist and paramilitary forces;

Whereas Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, a civilian airliner, was destroyed by a Russian-made missile provided to the separatist forces by the Russian Federation, taking all 298 innocent lives on board;

Whereas the Russian Federation has used and is continuing to use coercive economic measures, including the manipulation of energy prices and supplies as well as trade restrictions, to place political and economic pressure on Ukraine;

Whereas visa, financial, and other sanctions imposed by the United States, the European Union, and other allies and partners have placed significant pressure on the Russian Federation and its leadership but have not been sufficient to end its political, military, and economic aggression against Ukraine;

Whereas the President of the United States has authority to impose stronger sanctions against the Russian Federation and its leadership;

Whereas an aggressive Russian propaganda effort through the dissemination of false information is intended to stoke ethnic divisions and incite violence, thereby posing a direct threat to the peace and stability of Ukraine;

Whereas on April 3, 2014, the President signed Public Law 113–96 for the purpose of bolstering the resources of the Broadcasting Board of Governors to counter Russian propaganda and provide the people of Ukraine and the surrounding regions with access to credible and uncensored sources of information;

Whereas the United States remains committed to Ukraine's democratic development and to the establishment of a government that includes and respects representatives from all regions of Ukraine;

Whereas the United States is committed to assisting the Government of Ukraine ensure that the parliamentary elections scheduled for October 26, 2014, are free, fair, and held in all regions of Ukraine in full accordance with international standards;

Whereas the United States strongly supports the development of a prosperous market economy in Ukraine;

Whereas the United States strongly supports the implementation of economic reforms in Ukraine, including in the fiscal, energy, pension, and banking sectors, among others;

Whereas the United States supports the development of Ukraine's trade and economic ties with other countries and especially the European Union following the signing of an Association Agreement on June 27, 2014;

Whereas the United States strongly supports energy diversification initiatives to reduce Russian control of energy supplies to Ukraine and other European countries, including the development of domestic sources of energy, increased efficiency, and substituting energy obtained from Russia with imports from other countries;

Whereas the terms of the cease-fire announced on September 5, 2014, are being violated by the Russian Federation and the separatist and paramilitary forces it supports;

Whereas this cease-fire, if its terms are fully met by all parties, may be a first step toward the reestablishment of stability that must include the full withdrawal of Russian

forces from Ukrainian territory, the establishment of Ukraine's control over all of its international borders, the disarming of the separatist and paramilitary forces in the east, an end to Russia's use of its energy exports and trade barriers to apply economic and political pressure on Ukraine, and an end to Russian interference in Ukraine's internal affairs;

Whereas the political, military, and economic aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation underscores the enduring importance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as the cornerstone of collective Euro-Atlantic defense; and

Whereas the United States reaffirms its obligations under the North Atlantic Treaty, especially Article 5, which states that ''an armed attack against one or more'' of the treaty signatories ''shall be considered an attack against them all'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) strongly supports the right of the people of Ukraine to freely determine their future, including their country's relationship with other nations and international organizations, without interference, intimidation, or coercion by other countries;

(2) calls on the President to continue to work with our allies and partners in Europe and other nations around the world to reaffirm the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine and to refuse to recognize the illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation;

(3) strongly condemns the continuing political, economic, and military aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the violation of its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity;

(4) states that the military intervention by the Russian Federation is a breach of its obligations under the United Nations Charter and its commitments as a participating State of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and is a violation of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, in which it pledged to respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine and to refrain from the threat of use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine; and poses a threat to international peace and security;

(5) demands that the Russian Federation remove its military forces and military equipment from the territory of Ukraine, including equipment provided to the separatist and paramilitary forces;

(6) demands that the Russian Federation end its political, military, and economic support of separatist and paramilitary forces in Ukraine;

(7) demands that the Russian Federation and the separatist and paramilitary forces it supports end their violations of the cease-fire announced on September 5, 2014;

(8) calls on the President to cooperate with allies and partners in Europe and other nations around the world to impose visa bans, targeted asset freezes, sectoral sanctions, and other measures on the Russian Federation and its leadership sufficient to compel it to end its violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, to remove its military forces and equipment from Ukrainian territory, and to end its support of separatist and paramilitary forces;

(9) calls on the President to provide the Government of Ukraine with defense articles, services, and training required to effectively defend its territory and sovereignty;

(10) calls on the President to ensure the delivery of urgently needed assistance to Ukraine and to ensure that all future assistance will be rapidly delivered;

(11) calls on the President to provide the Government of Ukraine with appropriate intelligence and other relevant information to assist the Government of Ukraine to defend its territory and sovereignty;

(12) calls on the President to work with the Government of Ukraine, our allies and other nations, and international organizations to ensure that the multinational team investigating the destruction of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 is able to conduct an unrestricted investigation, guarantee the repatriation of remains and personal effects from the crash site, report its findings free of outside political influence or intimidation and to ensure that those directly and indirectly responsible for this tragedy are brought to justice;

(13) calls on our European allies, and other countries and international organizations, to join the United States in providing assistance to the Government of Ukraine to ensure that the parliamentary elections scheduled for October 26, 2014, are free, fair, and held in all regions of Ukraine in full accordance with international standards;

(14) calls on the President to expand United States international broadcasting efforts to Russian-speaking audiences in Ukraine and both inside and outside of Russia and include a broad spectrum of communications mediums to provide high-quality programming content, independent journalism, and credible information to counter Russia's propaganda;

(15) calls on Ukraine and other countries to support energy diversification initiatives to reduce the ability of the Russian Federation to use its energy exports as a means of applying political or economic pressure, including by promoting increased natural gas exports from the United States and other countries;

(16) strongly supports the efforts by President Poroshenko and the people of Ukraine to establish a lasting peace in Ukraine that includes the full withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukraine's territory, the establishment of Ukraine's control over all of its international borders, the disarming of the separatist and paramilitary forces in the east, policies to reduce Russia's ability to use energy exports and trade barriers as weapons to apply economic and political pressure on Ukraine, and an end to Russia's interference in Ukraine's internal affairs; and

(17) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to its obligations under the North Atlantic Treaty, especially Article 5, and calls on all Alliance member states to provide their full share of the resources needed to ensure their collective defense.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous materials in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, this is a historic moment for Ukraine. It has withstood invasion by Russian forces, their illegal occupation and annexation of Crimea, the arming of separatist militias by Moscow, the cutoff of natural gas and imposition of trade barriers aimed at undermining Ukraine's economy. They have suffered under a Russian propaganda offensive designed to sow fear and exploit division, and they have had many other assaults along the way.

I had an opportunity—myself and ELIOT ENGEL of New York—to travel to Ukraine, along with JIM GERLACH. We are happy to have Mr. GERLACH and MARCY KAPTUR with us today. They are the authors of this resolution, a resolution in support of Ukraine. I will lay out what we saw both in western Ukraine and in the east, because we traveled across that country.

But before I do that, let me point out that thousands and thousands of Ukrainians have been killed by the fighting in the east and hundreds of thousands have been made refugees.

But Ukraine still stands. It stands unbowed, more determined than ever to secure its independence and its sovereignty and its territorial integrity. This resolution that the House clearly has before it states unambiguously our support for Ukraine in its effort.

The United States, our European allies, and many other countries have made clear that we will not allow Russia to bludgeon—bludgeon—Ukraine into submission, because that is exactly what they attempted to do. We have opposed tough sanctions on Russia. We have provided extensive assistance to help Ukraine through this very difficult time. Its military needs to be bolstered. And we are supporting the establishment of a democratic system representing all of the people of Ukraine.

Importantly, yesterday, the Ukrainian Parliament passed a law granting greater autonomy—including Russian language rights—to those in the east. A strong democracy respectful of individual rights is the best counter to Vladimir Putin's very autocratic ways.

Ukraine faces many challenges, including growing economic problems, the possibility of a gas shortage this winter, and a never-ending onslaught of propaganda. We will continue to assist Ukraine, but it is vital that in Ukraine—and we carried this message when we were in country—they implement the far-reaching economic and structural reforms necessary to enable that country to grow.

Ending Russia's ability to use its oil and natural gas as a weapon has got to be a priority. There are many steps that Ukraine itself can take, beginning with reforming its energy sector to expand its own production of energy and, of course, to increase efficiency. The United States and other countries, especially Ukraine's neighbors in Europe, can help by making alternative supplies available to that country.

You notice that the Polish engineers have reverse-engineered those pipes so

that gas can come into Ukraine. Western Ukraine has tremendous possibilities for oil shale. We met when we were in Azerbaijan with the government there that is building a pipeline into Central Europe, and we know that a lot more can be done in order to get gas into Ukraine.

The U.S. can take a major step forward by removing the restrictions we have imposed on ourselves that severely limit the export of our abundant supplies. We have got a glut on our market. Frankly, this is a way to create jobs here, this is a way to help our balance of payments. Let's sell this to Ukraine because they deeply need it. And, frankly, the prices in the east are very, very, high and this will give us a new market.

And the other body could act on legislation this House has passed to revamp U.S. international broadcasting so there is an effective counter to Moscow's never-ending propaganda. This is legislation that I and my colleague ELIOT ENGEL have authored in order to make certain that the people in Ukraine and, frankly, that Russian-speaking populations everywhere, can hear the truth about what is happening inside their own countries, as well as an appeal to political pluralism and tolerance and all of the values that the international community should share.

In April, Ranking Member ENGEL and I led a delegation, as I mentioned, to the Ukraine to see for ourselves the situation on the ground, including in the east in Dnipropetrovsk, in eastern Ukraine, which borders the region controlled by the separatists. There and in Kiev, we had extensive discussions with a range of senior officials, including Prime Minister Yatsenyuk, about the situation in their country. We also spoke with leaders of the civil society community: women's groups, lawyers' groups, Jewish groups, Tatar groups, Russian-speaking communities. All strongly supported a united Ukraine; all opposed Russian intervention. All shared with us that at the end of the day they wanted Ukraine whole, they wanted Russia out.

We met with Mr. Poroshenko prior to his election and assured him of strong U.S. support. Now the entire Congress will demonstrate that continuing commitment when the President of Ukraine addresses the joint session tomorrow. The message will be heard loud and clear, not just in Ukraine, not just in Kiev, but also in Moscow and around the world, that the United States stands with the people of Ukraine now and always.

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

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

I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Tomorrow, we will welcome the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, to address a joint session of Congress. It is fitting that the leader of the Ukrainian people will speak in this Chamber where over the centuries our own democracy has grown and thrived.

Today, we know that freedom and democracy in Ukraine are under threat. So with this resolution we will send a clear signal to President Poroshenko and to the people of Ukraine that we stand by them. America stands with them.

I visited Ukraine a few months ago with my friend, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Congressman ROYCE. Everywhere we went we heard the same thing: the people of Ukraine do not want Russian interference in their country.

Ukraine is an independent Nation—it is not part of another country—and the people of Ukraine have a right to make a determination for themselves as to what their policies would be without intimidation from Mr. Putin or anybody else.

This hit home, especially for me, when I visited a synagogue in eastern Ukraine. My four grandparents were born in Ukraine.

□ 1245

Two older men at this synagogue approached me to talk about the Russian threat. Over the last century, their eyes have seen the tide of history roll in and out of Ukraine.

They had fought against Hitler's army, they had lived under the yoke of Soviet tyranny, they had witnessed democracy spread across Eastern Europe, and, now, they were looking East at a new threat on the horizon. ''Don't abandon us,'' one of them said. ''America is very, very important.''

If anything, that threat has only grown worse in recent months. Separatist forces, bolstered by President Putin, continue to wreak havoc across eastern Ukraine. Russian weapons have brought down a plane full of innocent civilians. Thousands of Russian troops have spilled over the border, trampling on Ukrainian sovereignty.

Mr. Poroshenko comes to us with his country on the brink. With this measure, we say to him, ''We support Ukraine. We support the right of Ukraine to determine its own future.'' We are also saying to our friends and allies around the world that this Russian aggression must not stand and that democracies must unite to meet this challenge.

Finally, we are saying to Mr. Putin, ''If you continue to threaten your neighbors, if you continue to sow unrest, if you continue to defy the will of the global community, you will isolate your country, and your actions will have consequences.''

I should also add that I think the credibility of the NATO alliance is really hanging in the balance. For the past 20 or 25 years, we have proceeded on the fact that Russia was not a threat and that Russia, indeed, in many ways, was a partner.

That is no longer, unfortunately, the situation. Russia is an adversary, and the NATO alliance has to adjust to that. The equation that NATO has to adjust to has changed because of the actions of Mr. Putin in Ukraine.

We have to make sure that our NATO allies feel strengthened. We have to make sure that the countries bordering Russia and the rest of Europe feel that they are not being intimidated, and countries like Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova ought to be free to exert their independent thinking and what they feel is best for their country and not be intimidated by Mr. Putin.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GERLACH), cochairman of the House Ukraine Caucus and the author of the resolution we have before us.

Mr. GERLACH. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I give particular thanks to Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for their great support and cooperation for this resolution and for Ukrainian people themselves; also, a special thanks to my colleagues in the House, Congresswoman KAPTUR, Congressman LEVIN, and Congressman PASCRELL, for your terrific support on these important issues involving our two countries.

This resolution sends an unmistakable message to the Russian Federation and to the entire world that this House stands united with the people of Ukraine. During the last 10 months, no other ally has experienced more internal upheaval or a more imminent threat to its sovereignty than our friends in Ukraine.

Last November, the people of Ukraine flooded the Maidan in Kiev to peacefully protest a corrupt and arrogant regime.

For nearly 3 months, Ukrainians risked their lives—and more than 100 civilians died—while ushering in a new era and a new system of governance, an era in which elected leaders will be accountable and transparent; honor the fundamental human rights all Ukrainians have, regardless of their political affiliation; and bolster alliances with the United States and European Union to foster greater economic opportunity and prosperity.

The smoldering fires of the Maidan had barely been extinguished, however, when a new threat emerged on Ukraine's eastern border with Russia. Russian President Vladimir Putin illegally occupied and then annexed Crimea. He emboldened and equipped separatists who have been fomenting discord through eastern Ukraine.

Clearly, what Putin has in mind for Ukraine is not a new era of openness, liberty, and opportunity, but, rather, a return to a bygone era of political intimidation and coercion, and Putin's gambit to reassert Russian influence has exacted a lethal toll.

The United States estimates 3,000 Ukrainian civilians have been killed

since April as a result of the clashes in eastern Ukraine, but, through all of these challenges, Ukrainian people have not wavered in their desire to remain independent and restore stability to their system of governance and an economy ravaged by the excesses of the previous regime.

I believe the people of Ukraine deserve our moral and material support as their country continues to confront challenges from within its borders and from its belligerent neighbor, and that support must include defense articles, services and training, and intelligence information that will allow Ukraine to effectively defend its territory and maintain its sovereignty.

I truly believe that an independent and democratic Ukraine enhances the security of the United States and offers greater economic opportunity for citizens in both countries; therefore, I ask my colleagues to pass this resolution and reaffirm the United States' commitment to supporting the right of the people of Ukraine to independently determine their future free from intimidation and free from outside influence.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, not too long ago—several years ago—several of us walked into this very, very historic room. The President of Ukraine at that time was President Yushchenko. A lot has happened since that ''Orange Revolution.'' A lot has happened to Ukraine.

We see in Ukraine a democratically elected Mr. Poroshenko, who will be here tomorrow, walking down the same aisle in a very, very different political environment.

I rise in support of House Resolution 726, supporting the right of the people of Ukraine to freely determine their future. That is what this resolution is all about. We must make clear our position that Russia's actions over the past year to intimidate and bring violence and death to the people of Ukraine, as well as the victims of Malaysia Flight 17—lest we forget—is behavior that is unacceptable to the entire international community.

Ukraine is a sovereign nation. That either means something or it doesn't. It has borders. It has a democratically-elected government. It has the right to govern itself as it sees fit.

Mr. Putin doesn't understand the concept of a sovereign nation. It is like he is living in a time before Westphalia. When the people of Ukraine decided they wanted to further integrate with Europe, he sent an army to invade. That was his answer.

My congressional district in northern New Jersey is home to many Ukrainian Americans. They are proud American citizens. They are proud of where they came from. They are proud of the culture and proud of this culture in this great Nation. They refuse to let Russia bully their homeland. They know how to assimilate Ukrainian Americans in the United States. They are proud Americans.

While we have already put tough multilateral sanctions on Russia, we need to do more. We wish Russia no harm, but we are not going to be dictated by Mr. Putin's dream whims.

I am pleased that we have a ceasefire that appears to be holding, but we don't know for how long. Russia needs to immediately withdraw any military assets it has in Ukraine, and the militias in the east should be disarmed.

We should provide Ukrainians with defensive arms so that they can defend their country in sovereignty. This is how you treat an ally, not with words. I am pleased this resolution calls for the President to do just this.

We cannot let up on this pressure, Mr. Speaker, on Mr. Putin. After Ukraine, he has his eyes set on allies in the Baltic States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLEISCHMANN). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. PASCRELL. We know Ukraine is not a part of NATO, at least not yet. Do we have a specific treaty with Ukraine? No, we don't, but they are our allies. That much means something.

The United States of America stands with the people of Ukraine today, and we will continue to stand with them in the future. I thank Mr. GERLACH from Pennsylvania for putting this resolution forward, as well as MARCY KAPTUR from Ohio; Mr. LEVIN from Michigan; and, of course, Mr. ENGEL is always there to do the right thing in international discourse.

I am honored to be here today to present this, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, let me first of all echo what Mr. PASCRELL just said. I want to commend Mr. GERLACH, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. LEVIN for this.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the coauthor of this legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank the ranking member for yielding and also Mr. GERLACH. Many of us have enjoyed working with him. We are going to miss you. We don't do enough work together in this institution.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly—kind of emotionally, in a way—support this resolution because of what has been going on in Ukraine. This resolution shows our support for Ukrainian people's right to determine their own future and to build a country that is free and democratic.

We stand firmly with Ukrainian people and condemn Russia's aggression. We should always remember that the impetus for Ukraine's freedom comes from within, from within Ukrainian people. It is their desire to be free that is the ultimate force behind all international efforts.

Time and events have shown, time and again, that Ukrainian people are standing up for their freedom. From the Orange Revolution in 2004 to the protests in Maidan Square earlier this year, it is clear to the world that Ukraine is determined to build her own future.

The past year has been very difficult. Ukrainian people have paid a very high price to govern according to their own wishes. The images and reports from Ukraine have been hard to accept, and we are deeply saddened by the lives lost and by the overwhelming uncertainties that still loom ahead; yet Ukrainian people have spoken through their actions.

Just yesterday, here at the Capitol, the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus held a celebration to commemorate the 400th anniversary of its oldest school, the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

At the event, I was delighted to see the strong support stemming from the American Ukrainian community. The community's work in my home State of Michigan and all across this Nation has led to close collaboration between our two nations and has reaffirmed our common values.

The community's work is especially important now, when others try to speak for the values and aspirations held true by Ukrainian people.

Tomorrow, we will welcome President Poroshenko to a joint meeting with Members of the House and Senate. We eagerly look forward to his remarks.

The passage of this resolution will be emblematic of the support from the American people, but we should always remember that the impetus for a free and democratic Ukraine comes from Ukrainian people themselves, but we can, should, and will help their efforts to continue to build a free Ukraine.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR). She and I traveled to Ukraine together many years ago on my first trip there.

She is also the cochair of the Ukrainian Caucus and has long been an advocate for a free and independent Ukraine.

Ms. KAPTUR. I would like to thank Ranking Member ENGEL so very much for yielding me the time, as well as Chairman ROYCE for his leadership and willingness to do all that was necessary to bring this bill to the floor today and to join JIM GERLACH, SANDER LEVIN, BILL PASCRELL, all very, very valued members of the Ukrainian Caucus.

□ 1300

We rise as colleagues in support of H. Res. 726 as we continue to strongly support the right of the people of Ukraine to freely determine their own futures, their sovereignty, without outside interference and, God forbid, further bloodshed or loss of life.

The brave people of Ukraine continue to face incredible challenges, not only an assault on their borders by Russia, but reforming their own government and their judiciary to develop a rich civil society with the rule of law.

The task that lies ahead for Ukraine is daunting but beckons liberty forward. This is Ukraine's moment in modern history. I expect her to become one of the greatest nations in Europe.

While the situation remains unstable, there are clear signs of hope, the ultimate reflection of the intrepid soul of the Ukrainian people who have endured history's raw edge. Just yesterday, Ukraine's President, Petro Poroshenko, signed the landmark and long-awaited European Union Association Agreement, a brave step forward. We recall it was this desire for a closer association with Europe and the West on the part of the Ukrainian people that was ultimately responsible for the start of the crisis which persists today.

As a great nation—the name Ukraine means ''borderland''—Ukraine should reach west and east and north and south. It is just that vast a land and its potential unlimited.

But in trying to accomplish that effort with Europe, what began as a peaceful protest in Kyiv, the capital, ended in bloodshed, first at the hands of the former corrupt Yanukovych regime, and now at the hands of Russian agitators under the directives and support of Russia's President, Vladimir Putin.

Still, we look forward to tomorrow's historic joint meeting of our Congress here in this House in honor of President Petro Poroshenko's first official visit to the United States. We must heed President Poroshenko's words and take into great consideration any request he makes of us, a vital friend and ally.

We continue to stand in solidarity with Ukraine and her people, and the passage of this bill, H. Res. 726, on the eve of President Poroshenko's visit aims to further illustrate the special friendship and bond our two countries share.

Were it not for Ukrainian Americans in our country and other Americans who had endured under the Soviet mantle for some generations, the visit here would not have as deep a meaning. We share Ukraine's struggle.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this bill's passage. I thank all of those—Ranking Member ENGEL; Chairman ROYCE; my colleague as cochair of the Ukrainian Caucus, JIM GERLACH; SANDER LEVIN and BILL PASCRELL—for making this moment possible.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), a very important and valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend Mr. ENGEL from New York, and I congratulate the authors of H. Res. 726. They have done a great job in building bipartisan support for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. The United States must stand with the people of Ukraine in the face of Russia's naked aggression and reverse violations to Ukrainian sovereignty and prevent further Russian meddling and attacks on what they consider former Soviet republics.

We must remember that this assault began in Crimea, part of Ukraine. It was in Crimea that Russian military forces violated, initially, Ukrainian sovereignty, and it was Russia then that ultimately illegally arranged for the annexation of this territory, territory of a sovereign country.

Subsequently, we have witnessed further incursions by the Russian military into eastern Ukraine. Now Europe is attuned to the threat, but, Mr. Speaker, I am stuck on Crimea. Ignoring Russian aggression in Crimea only emboldened Putin to do it again in eastern Ukraine.

I am very pleased that the authors of this resolution adopted the principles of our bipartisan legislation introduced earlier this year with Mr. STEVE CHABOT, and like the Crimea Annexation Non-recognition Act, which is H. Res. 726, formerly and utterly rejects Russian sovereignty over Crimea and calls on our allies to do the same. Without a clear stance on the issue of Crimea, the West ultimately becomes unwittingly complicit in Putin's further aggression and interference throughout Ukraine.

What is next? Moldova? Georgia? The Baltic Republic?

Congress must address the Crimea underlying issue if we are going to have credibility on the whole issue of Putin's aggression in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the authors of this resolution for doing just that; and again, I thank Mr. ENGEL and Mr. ROYCE for the way they comport the House Foreign Affairs Committee in true bipartisan fashion.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I have the right to close, so I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I will close and say that this is a very important and timely resolution.

When Chairman ROYCE and I visited Ukraine a few months ago, we had the good fortune to meet with many Ukrainian officials and people running for President. Mr. Poroshenko, who will address us tomorrow in joint session, was one of them.

I can tell you that Chairman ROYCE and I both were very impressed with Mr. Poroshenko. We really felt that there was great hope for Ukraine and thought that he was the likely winner. Everything that he has done, in my opinion, since he has won just reaffirms our initial feeling about him.

I was very happy that Ukraine signed the European Union Association Agreement yesterday. It strikes a very good balance but moves Ukraine closer to the West where the people want it.

I can tell you that when we went to Ukraine and we stood in Maidan Square where the protests happened, you really felt—it was a palpable feeling—that you were part of history, people, average Ukrainians, coming up to us in the street thanking the United States of America for its strong support of Ukraine and for the independence of Ukraine.

Now, the resolution—and I think it is important to highlight certain things—says that the United States is strongly committed to the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and the United States strongly supports the right of the people of Ukraine to freely determine their future, including their country's relationship with other nations, without interference, intimidation, or coercion by other countries.

It also talks about Crimea, and I think that that should not be forgotten. Mr. CONNOLLY is quite right. The taking of part of another country through military force cannot be fathomed and we cannot look the other way. We need to very strongly condemn it. Crimea is part of Ukraine, not part of Russia.

So what we have here in this resolution—and I again want to commend Mr. GERLACH and Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. LEVIN and all the people who put it together—is a commonsense resolution that says that the United States stands with the people of Ukraine and stands with the right of the people of Ukraine to determine its own future.

This is a very important resolution. It is a very timely resolution, and I would urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

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

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

The Ukrainian people have had a long, turbulent history of struggle. It is important to remember that when that vote for independence came, it passed overwhelmingly across Ukraine.

For me, I think the most memorable point of that trip was standing with Mr. ENGEL in the synagogue—it was Passover—adjacent to the largest community center, Jewish community center in all of Europe.

ELIOT ENGEL, whose four grandparents all came from Ukraine, spoke to the hopes that the American people have for a Ukraine which is a Ukraine that embraces tolerance, political pluralism, freedom, a Ukraine in which the persecution of people is a thing of the past but in which the future lies with the democratic ideals that we share, a Ukraine independent, a Ukraine free of threat, free of outside influence.

These are the hopes embodied in this resolution because the Ukrainian people have withstood these enormous pressures. They have endured this great suffering. They know there are many challenges still to overcome before they can rest secure. But the Ukrainians that we spoke with told us that among the most important things sustaining them throughout this difficult time is the knowledge that we in the United States stand with them.

Tomorrow, President Poroshenko will address this joint session of Congress here; and by granting him, his

country, this honor and by adopting this resolution today, we will demonstrate our continuing commitment to Ukraine and to helping its people achieve the freedom, achieve the security and prosperity that they so rightfully deserve.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 726.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 24, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 5462, by the yeas and nays;

S. 476, by the yeas and nays.

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

FEDERAL RESERVE TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 24) 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, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 333, nays 92, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 504]

YEAS—333

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Enyart
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (PA)
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—92

Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Butterfield
Campbell
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
DeLauro
Deutch
Dingell
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Green, Al
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Heck (WA)
Himes
Holt
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lowenthal
Lowey
Maloney, Carolyn
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
Meeks
Miller, George
Moore
Neal
Pallone
Payne
Pelosi
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Price (NC)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ryan (OH)
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Sewell (AL)
Slaughter
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—6

Barton
Castor (FL)
DesJarlais
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Nunnelee

□ 1343

Messrs. PALLONE, LARSON of Connecticut, KIND, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. LEE of California, Messrs. CLEAVER, CLYBURN, RICHMOND, ENGEL, MEEKS, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. CUMMINGS changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. WOODALL, DOGGETT, COHEN, FATTAH, and KEATING changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AIR PASSENGER FEE LIMITATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5462) to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for limitations on the fees charged to passengers of air carriers, 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 North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) 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 423, nays 0, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 505]

YEAS—423

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)

Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
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, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
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
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
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
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
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 (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
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
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—8

Barton
Byrne
Castor (FL)
DesJarlais
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Nunnelee
Rooney

□ 1351

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.

THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK COMMISSION EXTENSION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 476) to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission, 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 Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) 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 419, nays 0, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 506]

YEAS—419

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
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, E. B.
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
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
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
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
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)

Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
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 (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
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
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—12

Barletta
Barton
Bishop (NY)
Byrne
Castor (FL)
Conyers
DesJarlais
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Johnson, Sam
Nunnelee
Rooney

□ 1359

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.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule 19, further consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 124) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. When proceedings were postponed on Tuesday, September 16, 2014, 3 hours and 30½ minutes of debate remained on the amendment printed in part B of House Report 113–600 offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON).

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) has 1 hour and 41½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) has 1 hour and 49 minutes remaining.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), my friend and colleague.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of something that I am for, and that is the chairman's amendment as he has presented it.

Madam Speaker, I think that for so many of us who represent men and women in uniform who comprise our fighting forces and who have been so diligent in this battle, in this war on terrorism, we look at these votes and certainly it causes us concern; and we know that the measure that the House is taking up is a measure as requested by the President—we recognize that—and we recognize, also, the severity and importance of the issue.

Madam Speaker, this is an issue that should require the full attention of every member and every staff member of this body. And I think that we all approach this—I do—with a lot of questions, and we realize that what the Commander in Chief has asked for is really, in the opinion of so many of the men and women that I represent, a half measure.

I wish we would see more leadership, and I am hopeful that in days to come we will see leadership from our Commander in Chief. That is what the men and women deserve, and that is what the American people deserve as we seek to protect our homeland.

I wish that we could stand here and say this administration has learned their lessons, because they have so mishandled the drawdown in Iraq. And the rhetoric of al Qaeda being on the run was truly a disservice to our military forces and to our men and women in uniform and to the American people.

It would be my hope that as we take a first step that we recenter our focus and commit to annihilating ISIL from the face of the Earth.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

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

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, the threat from ISIS is real. All of us have seen the violence and the barbarism of ISIS. The rapid advance of ISIS militants within Iraq and Syria is an immediate threat to these countries in the region.

No one should be under any delusion about what will happen if the U.S. sits this one out. If unchecked, the ISIS threat will grow and become even more difficult to address down the road and directly threaten our Nation.

As we have seen since President Obama authorized the limited airstrikes against ISIS in August, we have the ability to mitigate the ISIS threat, but we cannot defeat ISIS by ourselves with U.S. airstrikes.

Thomas Friedman said it well in The New York Times:

> ISIS loses if our moderate Arab-Muslim partners can unite and make this a civil war within Islam—a civil war in which America is the air force for the Sunnis and Shiites of decency versus those of barbarism . . . It is about them and who they want to be.

As I see it, an important aspect of U.S. assistance under this amendment in the training of Syrian rebels is that it will be an occasion for nations with a Sunni majority to join in a battle against the fanatical Sunni ISIS. Hopefully, this can lead to expanded involvement of other nations in this battle at the same time as Iraq's Shi'a majority, with our active encouragement, finally provides full rights and participation for its Sunni and Kurdish minorities.

So amidst all the difficulties and the challenges—and they are serious and many—this amendment can hopefully serve as a stepping stone, as a stepping stone to a broad-based, effective coalition against the spread of ISIS.

Our country can provide air support, can provide intelligence and other logistics, but in the end, it cannot achieve for the people of Syria and Iraq on the ground what they can only do for themselves.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), my colleague and the chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California, the chairman, whose amendment I support here today, and I will support any measure that will lead to the destruction of ISIS.

This administration has known about this threat for over a year. It wasn't until the two beheadings of an American journalist and a British aid worker that the American people really understood the pure evil that is ISIS. The White House has been sending mixed messages. Words do matter.

Finally, I believe this administration realized, despite its flawed narrative over the years, what the threat from ISIS really is. In fact, General Dempsey, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, said, to fully defeat ISIS, we have to go into Syria. I agree with him. We must cut off the head of the snake wherever it exists, and it does exist in Syria.

While limited in nature, this authorization will begin the process to do just that by vetting, equipping, and training moderate forces by the United States military in Saudi Arabia.

I had some reservations about the vetting process. I did visit with Pentagon officials, and I got greater confidence. I do believe the numbers are a little bit too low, but the broader strategy under General Allen is to lead a coalition not only of NATO allies, but of these moderate Sunni nations to build a ground force in Syria which currently does not exist.

It is vital, Madam Speaker, that Sunni moderates stand up, Sunni moderates and Arab nations step up to the plate to defeat and combat Sunni extremists in their own backyard.

While this is a step in the right direction, I believe that, long term, the administration needs to come forward with a comprehensive strategy, one that the American people and Congress can debate, which could be fully authorized by Congress.

In closing, Madam Speaker, there is nothing more important that we debate up here, that we talk about here,

that we vote on up here than matters of war and peace. It is for that reason that I support this amendment. For, if we do not hit ISIS overseas, they will certainly hit us in the United States.

Mr. SMITH. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ).

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this amendment.

I don't take that lightly. I spent 18 years on the Armed Services Committee and about 12 years on the Homeland Security Committee, and with any decision like this, we have to weigh what we know and what we don't know.

We know that, if left unchecked, ISIS would become a direct threat not only to the United States, but possibly to the entire world. That is why we are going after them currently in Iraq with partners that we know we can trust, such as the Kurds.

We know that we cannot sit on our hands, close our eyes, and hope that ISIS goes away. That is why we need a good plan.

We know that we cannot do this alone, that we need a committed international coalition to stop ISIS.

The President says we have a coalition of 40. You know, it is interesting because I remember the Iraq war and the coalition. Some of our coalition members sent one person. I would really like to know who our coalition is and what they are really going to do before I vote for any plan.

What don't we know? We don't know how moderate these Syrian rebels really are. In fact, some of my Syrian constituents, Syrian Americans who live in Orange County, have told me that there are no moderates left or, worse, that the moderates, given the choice between losing or Assad or ISIS, want ISIS, and they say people aren't going to fight against ISIS.

We don't know if somewhere down the line they will turn our guns right back on us. In fact, that is one of the scarier things that we have to face. We simply don't know who we can trust. In an uncontrolled, war-torn destabilized country, who do we trust?

We can look back, for example, at what happened in Central America, how the rebels there, who were armed by the United States, went after innocent civilians. This blood will be on our hands when that happens.

We need a winning strategy to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIS.

Now, we are in an election season. Everybody says this isn't political, but I know, I have been talking to colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and some are wondering what they do 7 weeks away from an election.

I have got to tell you, this is not a political vote. The last time people took a political vote in this House, it was on the Iraq war, and many of my colleagues say it was the worst vote they took.

□ 1415

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), my friend and colleague.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I thank our chairman.

This proposal just examines one piece of the puzzle, not the totality of the Syrian crisis. The White House should have come to Congress for a full authorization for use of military force in Syria to put all of our options on the table with no limitations.

ISIS is part of the radical Islam threat, which the 9/11 Commission identified as a serious threat to U.S. national security and to world peace and stability.

I have serious reservations about the President's plan to train and equip the so-called ''moderate opposition'' in Syria because we don't want ISIL to get even more of our equipment and arms, as it did in Iraq.

ISIL is not the only terror group in Syria, Madam Speaker, nor is it the only hurdle for stability in Syria and Iraq. There are dangerous terrorist groups operating in Syria, like al-Nusra and other terrorist organizations, that are waiting to take up the mantle should ISIL fall. And, then, of course, Assad is still responsible for the deaths of over 200,000 people.

Last year, the President failed to act militarily when Assad used chemical weapons against his own people. We cannot have a plan that does not address the removal of Assad simultaneously alongside the destruction of ISIL and other terrorist threats.

Even though I will vote for the McKeon amendment, we still won't be approaching this situation in a comprehensive manner that is required.

We were successful in isolating Iran with sanctions until we unraveled that with these nuclear negotiations. We can do the same in Syria. I am afraid that this misguided negotiations approach in Iran will preempt many to acquiesce and take a deal that will undermine our national security and leave Iran with enrichment capabilities.

That, Madam Speaker, is a real and present danger in the Middle East: a nuclear Iran. This could be a calamity for the region and U.S. national security interests, such as the safety and the security of our strong ally, the democratic Jewish State of Israel.

Yesterday, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Dempsey, revealed that the use of military forces on the ground may be needed in Syria. If our military officials believe that it is absolutely necessary to use the U.S. military on the ground, I would fully support that.

We cannot take anything off the table and showcase to the terrorists what we are not willing to do. The full range of United States political, economic, and military power must be brought to bear against this radical threat. Announcing to the enemy a self-imposed limit on the part of our arsenal is signaling that we do not possess the necessary will to prevail against radical Islam.

I thank the chairman for the leadership.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished minority whip.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank the gentleman for his leadership. I thank Mr. MCKEON for his leadership.

We will see today a bipartisan action, bipartisan action on behalf of America, on behalf of its security, on behalf of our international partners in confronting terrorism.

Madam Speaker, today, the House is fulfilling one of its most important responsibilities: to protect our national security and defend our interests overseas. Among those interests is to prevent the dangerous ISIL terrorist group from spreading and threatening American personnel, our allies, and innocent civilians.

The amendment before us will authorize the President to train and equip moderate Syrian opposition to degrade and destroy ISIL in Iraq and Syria. No sanctuaries, no place to hide. ISIL is already threatening Americans and our allies in the Middle East and Europe; and, if left unchecked, it will surely threaten us here at home.

This amendment is Congress' opportunity to demonstrate unity in support of the President's strategy and provide him with the authorization he needs to help train and equip our regional partners to go on the offense against ISIL. ISIL has already murdered and captured soldiers, innocent civilians, and journalists, including, of course, two Americans, and members of religious communities have been targeted, targeted for their faith. They are no more than a collection of criminal terrorists bent on imposing their fanatical objectives on others by force, violence, and barbarism.

ISIL constitutes a dual threat. They pose a counterterrorism threat to the United States and our regional partners and they represent a destabilizing force in the region.

Madam Speaker, we cannot ignore the challenge that ISIL presents to America and to the world. There is no question that there will be challenges. But we know empirically the cost of doing nothing is far too great.

The President was right to wait until a government had been formed in Iraq that is ready to move forward against ISIL. Americans don't want American women and men on the ground, but Americans do want ISIL confronted. Congress has an important role to play in this effort, and this amendment ought to be a strong and clear message to the world that the American people, through their elected representatives, will join those in the region to prevent the terrorist group ISIL from running rampant across the Middle East.

It is a message to our allies and regional partners that our Nation is prepared to train and equip those who are working to stop ISIL's advance. And it is a message to the world that we are united in our resolve to meet this threat. We clearly may have differences on this House floor, but we are Americans when it comes to defending our people and our country.

Madam Speaker, with regard to the underlying bill, the continuing resolution, let me make some brief comments.

House Republicans have chosen not to repeat their government shutdown from last year. I think they are making a wise decision.

There are things I would change in this bill, just as I know there are things my friends on the Republican side would change in this bill. That is compromise. That is the legislative process. That is what our Founding Fathers envisioned. That, in fact, is governing.

I am hopeful that this continuing resolution will give Congress the time it needs to complete work on appropriations for the fiscal year 2015 that meet our obligations to the American people and to America's future.

We need a budget that embraces fiscal sustainability while investing in job growth and competitiveness so that we can grow our middle class.

While it is important that Congress move forward with this 72-day funding bill, I am disappointed, Madam Speaker, that we are not extending the Export-Import Bank's charter for multiple years. Not doing so is another example of undermining our competitive position for the world and the competence of our job creators.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. As CNBC pointed out last week:

> At first glance, it might seem like a congressional deal to extend the Export-Import Bank's charter through June would be good news for the beleaguered institution, which supports American exports with loan guarantees and other credit assistance. In fact, it is the exact opposite. An extension to June could be a death sentence for the bank.

I sincerely pray it is not.

Congress has a responsibility to make sure the bank's charter is extended beyond June. We need a multiyear reauthorization along the lines of the one proposed by Ranking Member WATERS and Representative DENNY HECK.

The Export-Import Bank is instrumental in helping small businesses access foreign markets, and uncertainty over its future has already cost American businesses lucrative trade deals.

I urge us between now and June to come together in a bipartisan way to move forward with legislation that achieves this goal. I believe if the House is allowed to vote, we will achieve that objective, as we have in the past.

While I oppose this provision, I will vote for the amendment and for final passage of the continuing resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I think it is in the best interest of America, the best interest of our national security, and I urge this House to act in a way that will make our constituents proud and safer.

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

I have a letter that was written to myself and Ranking Member SMITH from four of our leading experts in the area, former Ambassadors to the area, and former generals: Ryan C. Crocker, Robert S. Ford, General Jack M. Keane, and General David H. Petraeus. This letter was dated this morning:

> Dear Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith:
>
> We write to express our strong support for congressional authorization of the provision of assistance and training to properly vetted members of the Syrian opposition.
>
> The Free Syrian Army is simultaneously fighting both the murderous regime of Bashar al-Assad and the barbaric Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham. Providing greater assistance to the Free Syrian Army is the United States' best opportunity to develop a moderate force that is capable of defeating ISIL and bringing about a post-Assad Syria that is free of terror.
>
> As you may know, Free Syrian Army forces have recently achieved some successes on the ground against ISIL forces in northern Syria, but their effectiveness is limited by their lack of sufficient assistance and training.
>
> Building up the moderate opposition in Syria will be a key element of any successful strategy against ISIL. To be sure, after 3 years of war, it will take a long time to build the moderate opposition. But there is no viable alternative. The United States must set to this task immediately.
>
> Finally, we note that approval of this measure should not prevent or circumscribe Congress from considering a properly scoped authorization for the use of military force in the future, or from otherwise revisiting or revising its position on this issue as conditions on the ground evolve. But time is of the essence, and we are convinced of the urgent need for Congress to authorize this effort.
>
> Sincerely, Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker; Ambassador Robert S. Ford; General Jack M. Keane, USA, Retired; and General David H. Petraeus, USA, Retired.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), my friend and colleague, a member of the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my good friend, and the chairman, whom I am very, very lucky and honored to serve under and serve with.

Madam Speaker, I oppose this amendment. It is not an easy vote. I have been looking for reasons to support this amendment and I can't find it.

This amendment does nothing to destroy the Islamic state. This amendment does not crush the Islamic state. What this amendment does is start training Islamists to fight Islamists, and we may have that Islamist army to fight Islamists in a matter of a few years.

I will not vote for something that I know will not work. Arming Islamists to fight other Islamists is not a winning strategy. I don't believe the weapons and tactics that we bestow to the Islamists will only be used against America's enemies. We have been through this before in Iraq and Afghanistan. I think I am one of the only people speaking here today who has served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In a confusing situation with many warring factions on all sides, the last thing that we should do is arm Islamic rebels to fight other Islamic rebels.

□ 1430

The truth is that the President invited the Islamic State into Iraq when he removed our eyes and ears on the ground and removed the U.S. military from Iraq 2 years ago. We will continue to be at war with radical Islam in this area well into the future, but that doesn't matter now. What matters is that the Islamic State is on the march, and it presents a serious regional threat.

We need to crush the Islamic State. We need to kill them. We need to destroy them. We need to burn the Islamic State to the ground, and you don't do that by training Islamic Syrians. You don't crush the Islamic State by training Islamists to fight other Islamists.

Arming Islamic fighters is no longer a viable strategy. It was a year ago, it was 2 years ago, but it is not now. There is no confidence that we are arming the right people, and there is no assurance that those weapons and U.S. tactics and U.S. communications gear won't fall into the wrong hands.

The Saudi Arabians are going to help us fight in Syria. If I remember right, Madam Speaker, the Saudi Arabians provided the majority of the hijackers who killed 3,000 Americans on 9/11. I refuse to stand with the Saudi Arabians.

We need to crush ISIS, not work on training more Islamic radicals.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington for yielding.

I rise in support of the McKeon amendment to grant the President the authority needed to fund and train Syrian opposition forces and counter the threat posed by ISIS.

Since the September 11 attacks, our Nation has taken the fight to terrorists. Our brave men and women in uniform supported by the defense and intelligence agencies have kept us safe from another attack on American soil. Now, our allies on the ground in the Middle East must take the fight to

ISIS, supported by our air power, arms, and expertise.

I agree with the administration that the most effective way for the United States to realize this goal is providing training and equipment to our allies in Iraq and select groups among the Syrian opposition. This is not a situation that can be solved by the introduction of U.S. troops into combat. In fact, such a response would jeopardize the gains made recently following the air campaign over Iraq.

It is vital, however, that the Syrian opposition groups selected to receive support be fully vetted by the administration to ensure to the greatest extent possible that no weapons or expertise will end up in the hands of our enemies, whether they be the Islamic State or another bad actor involved in the conflict.

We must only provide support to those groups that both the Department of Defense and State have determined to have the greatest chance of success. While there are no guarantees in this situation, the administration must take appropriate steps to minimize the risk and avoid repeating history.

It must also be made clear that these efforts are not the first step of an ever-escalating conflict ending with widespread U.S. involvement in a combat role. Our allies in the Arab world, both Sunni and Shi'a, must be the leaders of the international alliance to combat ISIS.

Only through a coalition and widespread involvement of Arab nations will these efforts succeed and not be seen as yet another chapter of Sunni on Shi'a violence or another chapter in a war between the Christian West and the Muslim Middle East. Our allies must make significant military commitments to support moderate groups in opposition to ISIS.

Finally, the administration must be able to give a clear view of their long-term strategy and goals going forward. Entering a conflict without clear objectives and an exit strategy is not a situation that any Member of the House wishes to repeat.

I urge my colleagues to support the McKeon amendment.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), my friend and the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, we face an enemy who poses a grave and growing threat to the United States and our allies, a threat that has been ignored for too long and must no longer be tolerated.

I know that many of us in this Chamber from both sides of the aisle believe that the President's strategy should do more to eradicate those extremists from the Earth, but despite those reservations—reservations that I share—we must support this amendment and take this first step towards a comprehensive strategy to combat these brutal terrorists.

Voting against this request would send a terrible message that America is unwilling to stand with those who are already fighting a common enemy and confirm the views of many in the region that America is but a paper tiger.

I am not convinced this train-and-equip effort will change the balance of power on the ground anytime soon, and I believe this approach comes with great risks. I am also concerned that airstrikes alone will be insufficient to meet the international threat posed by these terrorists.

Congress must maintain a central role. We must conduct oversight to ensure this program is managed effectively. Under the leadership of Chairman MCKEON, we have taken the President's original request and have added substantial oversight provisions to ensure this program is properly and carefully managed.

Congress must also push the President to craft a comprehensive strategy that recognizes the inescapable reality that ISIL is but a symptom of a broader terrorist threat.

Preventing the next 9/11 requires us to confront the reality that al Qaeda, ISIL, and similar radical terrorist groups are spreading, operating out of sanctuaries across the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia. These groups pose a grave and growing threat to the United States. Our strategy cannot ignore these growing dangers.

A President who has made ending the war on terrorism the central focus of his foreign policy must now change. He must now make winning the war a priority. The Congress will need to push the President and his administration to do this right; to confront America's enemies; and to restore America's alliances, strength, and credibility.

This institution will be in no position to do that if we block his simple request today. Congress must now vote to support the first steps of what will be a long march toward that victory.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise against this amendment to arm and equip both Syrian rebels and other Syrian groups and individuals.

I want to be clear: we need to take action against the threat posed by ISIL, and I support the President in the use of airstrikes, but our response must also be appropriate to the complexity of the situation on the ground in Syria.

First and foremost, we must make sure that any response to the threat that we face does not plunge us deeper into a complicated and sectarian civil war. I feel that this amendment may lead to that.

With their barbaric attacks against journalists, women, children, and innocent civilians, ISIL is a terrorist group, pure and simple. While they are not now a threat to our Nation, they do have the potential to be one if left unchecked.

I believe that operating with our allies in the region, like Arab nations and leaders in the newly-formed Iraqi government, we must be part of a broad coalition to address this potential threat, but I do not think this amendment is the right way forward.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is a tyrant. He has tortured and massacred his own people for years now. He should stand before the world and be made to pay for his crimes, but, as the very existence of ISIL illustrates, simply arming those who oppose his tyranny will not make America or the region safer.

Syria is a deeply complex situation. It is a nation in the midst of a civil war, splintered between Shi'a and Sunni, authoritarians and al Qaeda, and along countless other points of fractures.

I do not see how we are going to be able to thread the needle whereby we arm those we think are ''good guys'' in this conflict without inadvertently making the ''bad guys'' stronger as well.

We need to take action against ISIL, and I support airstrikes and other counterterrorism measures, but I believe that the amendment before us today provides much broader authority, and I cannot support it.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON), my friend and colleague.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. I thank the chairman for yielding me time.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this amendment. The President took an important step in his address to the Nation last week. He said that he is committed to ''degrading and destroying'' ISIL. The President should be commended for evolving from his position last month when he indicated that he didn't think ISIL posed much of a threat to America.

Madam Speaker, much, much more must be done. I am concerned that the President isn't fully listening to his military leaders. Reports have emerged indicating that President Obama did not choose to use the recommendations that our military leaders gave him.

Specifically, it has been reported that General Lloyd Austin, the top commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East, advised the President to send in some Special Operations Forces to advise and assist Iraqi Army units while fighting the militants.

Just today, at a Senate hearing, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Martin Dempsey said that the reality of the threat of ISIL might make the hands-off approach that the President is pursuing insufficient to deal with the threat. It is troubling when a Commander in Chief with no military experience chooses to ignore the advice of his military leaders.

On one hand, Secretary Hagel has said that we are at war with ISIL. On the other hand, it appears as if the President may be settling for what may be less than overwhelming force in confronting an enemy that he says

should be destroyed because of the threat it poses.

Again, it was encouraging to see President Obama acknowledge ISIL as the threat that they are to Americans, to our homeland, and our friend and allies; however, I hope, when this authorization expires in December, that President Obama will take the steps that his military leaders propose that will actually accomplish the President's goal of degrading and destroying ISIL.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), and—he insisted I say this—a fellow graduate of Fordham University.

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this amendment. We all agonized as to what we should do, but I want to correct the record. At 2:25 this afternoon, through the chair, when we started to pontificate on this floor about Islamists against Islamists, what we do is perpetuate the agony. What we do is stir up the pot when we stereotype who is with us and who is not with us.

Not every Muslim is the same, not every Christian is the same, as we found out in the Balkan wars in 1998 and 1999. In fact, in that war, we assisted Kosovo because it was being totally overcome with Serbs. One was Muslim; the other was Christian.

I think it is not good that the Congress go on record as pitting one group against the other. I don't think it works. I don't think it is healthy, Madam Speaker.

Let's be clear about what this vote is about. This is not an authorization for open-ended war. This is not October 2002 which was an authorization. No one knows that better than the chair and the ranking member who have done a spectacular job, I believe, in keeping this a fair debate and a fair discussion, and I want to compliment both of them.

I believe that ISIL is a threat to our national security, and I support the President's mission to end that threat. While America must lead, we cannot do this alone. We must see a real commitment from our coalition partners in the region, and we must provide the kind of support that is necessary if we are going to be successful.

In 3 months, when we get to December and we have to vote for a CR again and we have to vote whether we are going to continue to go down this path, we better have tangible evidence that those countries who signed sheets of paper that they are going to support us have tangible support out there for us and are not just sending cupcakes for the troops.

We can do our part. We can arm all the properly vetted opposition forces in Syria that we can find and provide air support and training for those on the ground, but we won't be successful in destroying ISIL unless our partners in the region help us cut off their funding, better police their borders, provide combat troops on the ground, and end the political bickering that causes the chaos and mistrust that groups like ISIL thrive under.

I am pleased that the President has chosen to come to Congress to get our support for his plan. I believe that the provisions of this amendment will allow us to perform the oversight that is constitutionally responsible.

However, as I said before, this is not a blank check. Today, we are voting for a limited mission and ensuring that we properly vet those we are arming.

□ 1445

I am pleased that we will revisit this issue later this year in the intervening months.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. PASCRELL. If our coalition partners don't step up to the plate, I don't see how we could be successful in destroying ISIL and why we should continue.

The lesson we learned from the war in Iraq is that American military might alone is not enough to defeat enemies. No matter how murderous and vicious a terrorist organization like ISIL may be, sometimes the American military intervention cannot be the silver bullet that solves all of our problems. And we say this about the greatest air and sea and land troops in the world. It is going to take a broad regional coalition acting as one, both militarily and politically.

Madam Speaker, I close by simply saying this: We need support, not only in the short term, but in the long term to have a government in Syria. We pray to God that they will have a government that can sustain itself.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN), my friend and colleague.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today 227 years ago on September 17, our Founding Fathers signed our Nation's most precious document, the U.S. Constitution.

Article I, section 8 of the U.S. Constitution states: Congress shall have the power to declare war. The President does not have that power, only Congress.

Congress gives our President the power to defend our country; however, that authority remains subject to checks and balances, particularly by this body.

As such, if the President believes a state of war exists between ourselves and ISIL—the comments made by both the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State indicate that he does—then let him make it constitutional by first coming to Congress and asking for that declaration.

Today, the House will vote on the President's request to authorize assistance to train and arm the Syrian rebels. I have long opposed arming the Syrian opposition out of the fear that these weapons will fall into the hands of Islamic radicals such as ISIL. Rather than supporting relatively unknown opposition groups in Syria to battle these forces, the Islamic State, we must instead turn to our longstanding allies, the Kurds.

The Kurds have shown repeatedly that they have the capacity, the tenacity, and the will to stand up to ISIL. With our support, the Kurdish Peshmerga, together with the Iraqi security forces, will be able to successfully annihilate the evil forces of ISIL.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, if the President wishes to engage this country in military action against ISIL, then I urge him to ask Congress for a declaration of war. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in opposition to this amendment.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I respect all of my colleagues on the tough decisions that we are asked to make today.

I believe that America must use our military might any time that our families face an imminent threat. Though ISIS, like a number of terrorist groups around the world, would like to kill more Americans, our military leadership has made it clear that ISIS does not represent such a threat today. It is a regional threat without the capacity to do the harm it would like to do.

Rejecting this one amendment does not mean doing nothing about ISIS. The President already has the necessary authority to respond to this savagery when Americans are murdered.

Now the President's response, however, has been expanded, and he proposes a full-scale war. This amendment establishes a new objective for this broader war—to end the civil war in Syria that has already consumed almost 200,000 lives.

Approving this amendment is the one vote that has been requested to enable this broader war—but without a declaration by the Congress to approve that war and without knowing what commitment those in the region will really make in order to fight this war.

I got a communication from a constituent of mine in San Antonio. Her name is Gloria Flores, and she tells me this. She poses some questions that are not being answered today in Washington.

''In my view,'' she says, ''ISIS is just one more extreme group which, if destroyed, will be replaced with another group . . . I don't say 'boots on the ground' because that phrase . . . takes away from the terrible toll that will affect a family if its son or daughter is killed. My nephew . . . was killed in Afghanistan, and we are still mourning his death . . . Any armed force should consist of almost entirely Middle Eastern soldiers. Why should American kids,'' she asks, ''carry the load for Saudis, Jordanians, et cetera?''

Why, indeed.

But this purported coalition does not carry its own load. Others may appear in photos. They may cheer from the rear, but nearby countries are not risking their young people in ground combat. In one case, we even have a neighboring country that will not even permit us to launch an attack by air from its soil.

With the number of our U.S. military on the ground already approaching 2,000 in Iraq and with General Michael Hayden, the former NSA and CIA head, expecting 5,000 by the end of the year, the danger of escalation is very real.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DOGGETT. Now, I do find it difficult to understand, with its hostility to Christians and brutal disdain for our American values, how Saudi Arabia can be a place for training anyone—certainly no Syrian women learning to drive there.

Ultimately, I believe that this resolution has to be evaluated on whether it secures our families in a stronger way. I think it entangles us in a conflict that we cannot get out of as quickly as those trained Iraqi soldiers dropped their uniforms and their guns.

Today is Constitution Day. Let us use our constitutional powers to consider a declaration of war before this entanglement.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP), my friend and colleague and a member of the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the President's request to train vetted moderate Syrian rebels, as I believe it is only one step in the right direction and it is supported by military experts.

Tremendous oversight is going to be necessary in this effort and, unfortunately, I fear, as do many experienced generals and military personnel, that it is part of a strategy that is insufficient to secure America's national security.

The President's stated objective is to destroy ISIL; however, I believe this overall strategy and the means requested are not enough to meet this objective.

The current strategy relies on U.S. airpower in support of local forces. This is not a counterterrorism effort, and to destroy ISIL it is necessary to have strong coordinated ground troops. The local ground forces the President is planning to rely on appear currently unready, and they will need to operate with a strong central command and control.

The President's strategy does not provide for U.S. Special Forces in the backing of our ground troops, even though our military leaders have repeatedly suggested that exact recommendation.

Our security is too important to base military strategy on political calculations. Our strategy must be firmly rooted in what is necessary in order to complete the mission and to ensure our security.

From Clausewitz to Powell, military leaders have preached the necessity of decisive force. I served in Iraq. We heeded this wisdom and committed to win with decisive force. We acted on militarily reality and not political risk. We can do this again and fulfill the American objective to destroy ISIL, but we must commit ourselves to do what is necessary—not only what it takes, but whatever it takes.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL).

Mr. ISRAEL. I thank my friend.

Madam Speaker, last week I met with a constituent from Huntington Station on Long Island, and she said to me, ''Mr. Israel, war is never the answer.''

I would agree with that view that war is never the answer if I believed that ISIL agreed with that view, but they do not. I have thought a lot about my constituent's comments and I have thought a lot about this resolution. There are four things that we do know.

First, ISIL is not just a threat; it is a savage threat. And what message do we send to potential beheaders around the world if we bury our head in the sand?

Secondly, ISIL has filled a vacuum, and if we do not check that vacuum, it will spread, and instability and beheadings and savagery will spread across the Middle East and beyond.

Number three, we cannot, nor should we, do this alone. I believe that the President has helped to organize an important international coalition to ensure that this is not on our shoulders and that we do not have boots on the ground.

Finally, there should be no blank checks. We did that. We gave those blank checks from 2000 to 2008. No more blank checks.

This resolution ensures accountability; it ensures transparency; it ensures reporting. Taken all together, Madam Speaker, this resolution is a restrained, responsible and appropriate response to the spread of ISIL, to beheading, to savagery in the Middle East and potentially around the world, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), my friend and colleague.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I thank my friend for yielding.

Madam Speaker, all of us recognize the threat posed to our Nation by the Islamic State. The question before us is whether to arm and train supposedly carefully vetted elements of the Free Syrian Army as a proxy ground force.

I respect the intentions of the supporters, but this proposal runs a great risk of backfiring.

The FSA is a marriage of convenience among many Islamic factions that have a long history of collaborating with the Islamic State. The singular purpose of the FSA is not to destroy the Islamic State. It exists to destroy the Syrian Government that is now actively fighting against the Islamic State.

The equipment we provide to the FSA could easily be turned against the Syrian Government, which, despite all of its despotic tendencies, is at least at war with the IS right now, and we would weaken our overall strategic position. Or this equipment could be turned over to the Islamic State, as we watched carefully vetted Iraqi security forces recently do. In fact, that is the reason the Islamic State is armed to the teeth with American equipment.

Neither we nor the world can afford more blunders or miscalculations in this region. We should have learned by now that alliances in the Islamic Middle East are in constant flux. An ally today is a sworn enemy tomorrow. In fact, often our allies are our enemies.

After I was elected, the first man killed from my district in Iraq, Army Specialist Jeremiah McCleery, died when ''carefully vetted'' Iraqi soldiers turned their American-provided weapons on him.

The most recent fatality from my district, Marine Staff Sergeant Sky Mote, died when ''carefully vetted'' Afghan police turned their American-provided weapons on him.

Madam Speaker, our consistent experience in this region should be screaming this warning at us. We are making a big mistake.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD).

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, I stand in opposition to this amendment because this proposed strategy actually reflects a lack of commitment to really destroy ISIL and the other Islamic extremist groups that we are at war with. Here are just a few reasons why I will be voting ''no.''

□ 1500

First, it is unrealistic. It will take way too long, and the number of fighters trained will be way too small to be truly effective in the fight against ISIL. Over that period of time, ISIL will continue to grow in strength.

Number two, the mission is unclear. The American people want ISIL destroyed, but the primary objective of the fighters whom we train will be to overthrow Assad.

Number three, we don't really know who they are. Presently, they are fighting shoulder to shoulder with al Qaeda and other Islamic extremists and therefore can't be trusted. The weapons and training that we give them may end up actually being used against us and our allies.

Voting to support this proposal is actually a vote to overthrow Assad because overthrowing Assad is the primary objective of the so-called Free Syrian Army.

If we combine the missions of destroying ISIL and of overthrowing Assad, this is not a smart or effective strategy for a number of reasons. We must focus on one mission—to destroy ISIL and other Islamic extremists who have declared war on us. Our mission should not be to topple the Assad regime, which would make the situation in the region even worse and more unstable than it is today.

Madam Speaker, we have heard this story before. We know how it ends. Look at Iraq. Look at Libya. Clearly, our leaders have not learned their lesson. We must focus on taking out our enemies and on investing in our own country here at home.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK).

Mr. WOMACK. My thanks to my friend from Texas for giving me the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Chairman MCKEON's amendment, though I have grave concerns about the President's current plan to train and equip Syrian opposition forces in the fight against ISIL.

In my opinion, Madam Speaker, the plan does not fit the threat. ISIL has made the Middle East into a war zone and an advanced training ground for terrorists who, by their own admission, seek to do Americans great harm. Its stated objectives of redrawing the boundaries of and imposing its will on sovereign nations makes the importance of confronting this organization, in the most profound way possible, critical.

Instead of responding proportionately, President Obama has proposed we outsource the problem to other people, and as a military officer, I am concerned that he actually believes this limited use of military power can achieve the ultimate objective of destroying ISIL—a force that is 30,000 strong and growing by the day.

Madam Speaker, I fear—in fact, I firmly believe—that the problem will not be solved by the actions taken by this Congress today. However, we cannot afford to stand idly by for another day, because a step in the right direction is better than no step at all. So I join my colleagues in support of the amendment. I believe, in short order, we will be asked to do more.

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, in 2011, former Secretary Robert Gates, as he was departing office, gave a speech at the West Point academy in which he said:

> In my opinion, any future Defense Secretary who advises the President to again send a big American land army into Asia or into the Middle East or Africa should have his head examined, as General MacArthur so delicately put it.

I think Secretary Gates spoke for the entire country in terms of that sentiment, which, after a long, bitter experience in Iraq and Afghanistan, speaks to the weariness that many feel today in terms of those conflicts, and, certainly, with the motion that is before us this afternoon, it still rings in people's ears. I think it is important therefore to sort of measure what we are voting on with what Secretary Gates, I think, so accurately stated.

The motion before us is to provide for title 10 authorization to allow the U.S. military to train and equip forces in Saudi Arabia to take up arms against ISIL. I checked with the Congressional Research Service yesterday to determine how many title 10 operations over the last 3 years have been conducted by the U.S. military. In 28 countries all across the world, the U.S. military has been involved in training and equipping operations, from the Philippines to Yemen to Poland.

For those who argue that what we are about to engage in is a slippery slope or that this authorization somehow broadly confers on the administration the ability to conduct a land invasion or a large military force, the fact of the matter is that the long and broad experience of title 10 that we have tells us exactly the opposite. In fact, what title 10 seeks to do is to stand up indigenous forces in those nations of allies to avoid what Secretary Gates warned about in 2011, which is to, again, not get this country involved in a large land invasion.

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

Mr. ELLISON. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, one healthy thing has occurred over the last few days, which is that folks on both sides of this measure, I think, have come to the realization that we as a Congress need to be engaged in terms of these types of decisions.

To their credit, Mr. MCKEON and Mr. SMITH have fashioned a resolution which requires by December 11 our revisiting this motion, to have regular reporting from the Department of Defense, and it requires us, I think, at some point, to take up the broader question of authorization of military force, reaching back to 2001 and 2002, in terms of limiting the scope, which, again, has been supported by this administration and which we have discussed in the House Armed Services Committee. It is also to focus on what exactly is the end game for our efforts in Syria and Iraq.

Again, the measure that is before us today, though, is simply about title 10 authorization between today and December 11. I think people should not overthink and overstate the consequences of this vote. What it provides is for America to stand up with regional allies and European allies to begin the process of degrading and, ultimately, destroying a barbaric force, which threatens stability both in the Middle East and, ultimately, America's national interests.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT).

Mr. DENT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my thoughts and, frankly, some concerns about the President's proposal that we will vote on today to train and arm the Free Syrian Army forces to fight ISIL. We are sort of in a ''damned if you do, damned if you don't'' situation.

I have always said that our country needs a comprehensive plan, policy, and strategy to defeat the radical Islamists terrorizing Iraq and Syria. Certainly, ISIS represents the antithesis of American ideals, and they have gruesomely demonstrated their disgust for our Nation with the beheadings of two American journalists in recent weeks.

What we are considering today is a partial plan, one of which I remain uncertain as to whether it will have the desired outcome. In fact, since 2011, the administration has consistently resisted any major efforts to arm and train the moderate opposition forces in Syria even when, I believe, a window existed to effectively do that some time ago.

At a hearing in the Appropriations Committee in February of 2012, I questioned then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton about why we were not doing more to help the moderate Syrian opposition. She flatly rejected providing support then. Now, however, I fear we may have effectively missed the time in which arming the FSA will impact the barbarism of ISIL in the region. Unfortunately, since 2011 and early 2012, the situation in Syria has become dramatically more complex, and identifying true allies in the fight against ISIS will be exceedingly difficult.

Questions remain about the President's strategy:

How will we effectively vet the opposition forces? How will we ensure that arms delivered will not be sold to ISIS forces or will not be used against already persecuted people in the region, such as the Syrian Christians?

ISIL is a threat to our Nation's security, and, no doubt, it must be destroyed and defeated, but I do have trepidation regarding this initial step in equipping the FSA at this juncture. Those voting on this measure, I suspect, will do so with great reluctance. Those voting ''no'' will do so with discomfort.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I agree with the last speaker, Mr. DENT, that this is a very difficult vote, and I think everybody should approach it with a tremendous amount of trepidation and concern. I am sure that all of us are doing the best we can to come to the very best decision we can on behalf of our constituents.

Today, I plan on voting for the measure. The reason is that the civil war in

Syria has claimed thousands of lives. Thousands more are now living under the deadly rule of ISIL, and 200,000 Syrians have been killed so far as the world, for 4 years, has not done much to protect them.

Now, the fight in Syria and Iraq can, ultimately, only be solved politically, and I believe that the growing humanitarian crisis caused by conflicts in the region warrants an urgent response from the United States. Any military action against ISIL must be led by Iraqis and Syrians. I believe U.S. troops would be a magnet for a group like ISIL, and therefore this fight must be carried forth by the people most affected—Syrians and Iraqis themselves. I believe that a vetted and better armed, moderate rebel group in Syria can fight ISIL in northeast Syria when an Iraqi Army, perhaps, can push them out of their country and into Syria. There cannot be a safe haven in Syria for ISIL.

I also want to note that much has been said about the fractured nature or the weakness of the Free Syrian Army, but I would remind people who are participating in this debate that, for 4 years, the Free Syrian Army has withstood the onslaught of the Assad government, Hezbollah, Iran, Russian weapons, ISIS, and Jabhat al-Nusra. For 4 years, these people who were dismissed as nothing but bankers and bakers and not real soldiers have stood their ground and have stood for their country.

For these reasons, I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Washington State (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS), the chair of the Republican Conference.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the chairman's amendment, and I stand ready to work with my colleagues and the President on a long-term strategy to dismantle and destroy ISIL.

Last week, the President's address to the country began to make the case that ISIL is an immediate threat to our allies in the Middle East, Europe and, ultimately, in our homeland. This is a radical and brutal force, opposed to all who do not adhere to their narrow view of Islam and the world. ISIL has declared war on our way of life and the values on which this country was founded and has flourished for over 235 years. In fact, ISIL has made clear that they will not be deterred until they see their flag flying over the White House.

When it comes to protecting the safety and security of Americans at home and abroad, America must lead. As we know, a speech is not a plan. An F–16 is not a strategy. As the Commander in Chief, we need the President to give us an honest assessment and an in-depth strategy to defend the country and our interests around the world.

This amendment responds to the President's request to use title 10 authority to train and equip vetted Syrian opposition forces. General Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, called it a necessary but not sufficient step. Beyond the amendment and the President's limited request, the American people need to see a plan clearly articulated with a strategy to dismantle and destroy ISIL.

When we look around the world today, we see instability and numerous threats. The spread of radical Islam throughout the globe is pervasive. Iran continues to move toward a nuclear weapon. Russia continues to take aggressive action toward the Baltic states.

I support this amendment because America must lead. As we have seen, when America sits on the sidelines, there is a leadership void, which is filled by bad actors. I urge my colleagues to join us in taking this action.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF).

□ 1515

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I will cast my vote to approve the President's funding request to train and equip the moderate Syrian opposition forces. I do so after long consideration and am mindful of the difficulties of vetting such a force during the middle of a brutal civil war.

Any decision to supply arms to combatants must be weighed carefully. Indeed, for the last several years, I have opposed arming the Syrian rebels out of a concern for our ability to properly vet such troops and the fear that weapons we provide may end up in the wrong hands. Those concerns persist, but they have been overcome by the growing menace of ISIL and the willingness of our regional allies to play a greater—and open—role in the support of these forces.

ISIL now controls about a third of Iraq and a like portion of Syria. It has been unsurpassed in its brutality, committing mass executions, forced conversions, trafficking in women, and beheading its hostages, including Americans James Foley and Steven Sotloff.

If ISIL is allowed to consolidate its territorial gains, or expand them, it will be able to act on its stated intention of serving as the platform for attacks on the United States. The thousands of foreign fighters, including Americans, who have flocked to join its ranks will one day attempt to return to the West and attack our homeland.

Our response must be proportionate to the threat. It does not justify American occupation of Iraq or Syria or the introduction of American ground forces, all of which are likely to be counterproductive. It does justify the use of American air power, intelligence, and financial, diplomatic, and military support. And since air power alone will not be sufficient on the battlefield, it will necessitate the assistance of local ground forces.

In the case of Iraq, those ground forces will be provided by the Iraqi military and Kurdish Peshmerga. In Syria, with rigorous vetting, training, and support, the rebel opposition may provide the raw material for a credible military force.

There is no guarantee that the Syrian opposition can form a cohesive fighting force, something that has thus far eluded them. But the open support of gulf nations in housing and funding this opposition holds the promise of consolidating regional support behind them.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HECK).

Mr. HECK of Nevada. I thank the chairman for the time.

Mr. Speaker, over the course of the debate for the past 2 days, I think one thing that most will agree on is that ISIL poses a clear and grave danger to our Nation, our interests abroad, and our allies. And I agree with the President when he stated that we must degrade and destroy ISIL no matter where they exist. And I support many of the provisions that he outlined in the speech he gave just last week: arming the Peshmerga, bolstering the Iraqi security forces, expanding airstrikes, and disrupting the flow of finances and foreign fighters to ISIL.

But the one thing I cannot support, the one thing I will not support is arming the so-called moderate opposition force, the Free Syrian Army. It is a ragtag collection of 100 disparate groups, and, just a little more than a month ago, the President stated that the notion that arming the rebels comprised of former pharmacists, doctors, and farmers would make a difference has ''always been a fantasy.''

The Free Syrian Army has no cogent leadership, no organization, no command and control. And without U.S. military advisers embedded with the forces that we train and send back into Syria, we will have no visibility on their effectiveness, their defections, or whether or not our weapons are falling into the hands of our enemies.

This is a plan that is destined to fail for the sake of saying we did something, and that I cannot support.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, while I support airstrikes, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

While there is no doubt that ISIS is a brutal terrorist group that is wreaking havoc in the region, at this time, none of the evidence I have seen, including U.S. intelligence reports, and none of the arguments I have heard convinces me that getting involved in a religious civil war in the Middle East will be successful or effective in keeping our homeland safer.

I cannot support what could turn into a war on three fronts: fighting ISIS in Iraq, fighting ISIS in Syria, and potentially Assad in Syria. Nor can

I support an unprecedented scenario in which the U.S. tries to reinvent a substantially degraded rebel army to act as our boots on the ground against a former ally of theirs, ISIS, all while ignoring their stated objective of overthrowing Assad.

And this entire plan depends on our ability to identify so-called moderates in Syria who would be prepared to die for our agenda. It is not at all clear how we are going to do that.

Trillions of dollars spent, all-out war, and more than a decade of occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan did not produce the peace we sought or the stability we were promised. We spent $25 billion to train the Iraqi Army to defend their own country, and they were decimated by ISIS in a matter of days and left their weapons to ISIS.

What would make anyone believe that spending a great deal less money to train a rebel army to defend our interests would turn out any better?

Mr. Speaker, this is a well-intentioned effort, but it is not a viable strategy. I urge a ''no'' vote.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE).

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the amendment to intervene in the civil war in Syria.

It is immoral to use the prospect of a government shutdown to pressure Members to vote for involvement in a war, much less a civil war on the other side of the globe. Because the Syrian resolution is contained within the continuing resolution, Representatives and Senators must tacitly approve the President's aggressive intervention in order to vote to fund all government programs.

It is disingenuous for the administration to tell the American public that we are arming Syrian rebels to fight ISIS when the administration's stated objective is to topple the secular government of Syria, a government, I might add, that has not committed aggression against the United States.

If the goal of arming and training so-called moderate Syrian rebels is to eliminate ISIS, this plan will not work. Military experts know this, as does the President. He acknowledged as much 5 weeks ago when he stated that the idea that arming rebels would have made a difference has ''always been a fantasy.''

What is our endgame? What is our long-term strategy? What will this ultimately cost? What are the unintended consequences that may come about? Will we follow this with boots on the ground? Who has these answers? The American people deserve these answers.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment. I also urge the same Members to stand strong and vote ''no'' on the underlying bill.

If this amendment should pass, there is no way to avoid culpability for a military action that is destined to cost innocent lives and will ultimately fail.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished minority leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his leadership in helping us all uphold the oath that we take when we become Members of Congress to protect and defend the American people. I believe that the McKeon amendment that is on the floor today helps us to do just that as well.

Last week, the President presented to the American people a forceful strategy to degrade and destroy ISIS, a strategy built on a firm foundation of nonmilitary action.

The President is to be commended for his strong leadership and humanitarian, political, and diplomatic components that must be part of any successful mission. In a humanitarian vein, for acting to help assist those impacted by ISIS and avert the genocide of religious minorities. Who could ever forget those people isolated on the mountain until the United States and others came to the rescue? Politically, for insisting and pushing for an inclusive government in Iraq.

And I commend the Vice President, as well, for his leadership. Without a change to an inclusive government that respects not only Shia, Sunni, and Kurds but also the religious minorities in the country as well, militarily actions would not be so productive.

And, again, in a nonmilitary vein, the President bringing together NATO allies, a coalition, as well as regional partners, to assist in degrading and destroying ISIS. This comprehensive strategy includes increasing our intelligence, disrupting ISIS' finances, and interdicting the flow of foreign fighters.

I have said in the past, in my view, the President already has the authority to do what he is doing. And, I will add, this House has voted overwhelmingly that should the President's actions go farther comprehensively, then Congress should vote on that authority.

Today we are called upon to authorize a discrete but critical component of the overall plan: the President's request to train and equip moderate, vetted Syrians outside of Syria to fight ISIS.

This is not an authorization for use of military force, as we had in 2001 and 2002. I do not support, nor will I support, combat troops on the ground. That is not what this is about.

I believe that the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) and those who have worked so hard to put this amendment together took many precautions and set a high standard in terms of the criteria and standards that the administration must meet with this training: where it would occur, who would be trained, extensive vetting of the moderates and the rebels. That is probably the most frequently asked question: ''How do we know?'' Well, we can do the best we can to vet, to ensure that we are doing what we set out to do.

The brutality of ISIS, ISIL—whatever they call themselves on any given day—is outside the circle of civilized human behavior. We wish that this action that we are called upon to do today was not necessary. But it is really hard for us to uphold our oath of office all the time to protect and defend. It is not always easy. And most of the time, it is hard for anything that takes us down a military path.

But the fact is that with the diplomatic, political, and humanitarian foundation that the President has laid, with the narrowness of the request that he is making to us, it is not pleasant, it is not easy—it is hard, but it really is necessary for the House to approve this.

We all wish, again, that it wasn't necessary. But we will approve it to help the Syrian people take responsibility for building peace and stability in their country, to stem the threat that ISIS can pose to U.S. interests abroad and to our national security.

Now, I have frequently quoted Hannah Arendt, who said, ''Nations are driven to an endless flywheel of violence because they believe that one last, one final gesture of violence will bring peace, but each time, they sow the seeds for more violence.''

I would hope that what we are doing today takes us in a different direction, one that is predicated on a nation of inclusion in Iraq, one that defeats ISIS by the moderates in-country defeating ISIS, because ISIS is now cross-border—in Iraq and in Syria, and who knows where they may try to go next.

So this is important. It is urgent. And I hope that it will have the support of our colleagues.

As with all votes, I have never asked a Member to vote with any vote of use of force or, in this case, training of moderates. But I just wanted you to know why I am proud to support the President and salute him for his efforts.

I thank Mr. MCKEON for his leadership in shaping this resolution, and I thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) for bringing this legislation to the floor.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this amendment, as I believe it is a plan which will not be successful.

Ronald Reagan reminded us to carry ''a banner of no pale pastels, but bold colors which make it unmistakably clear where we stand'' on the issues.

No offense, but I believe the plan before us is one of pale pastels when the world needed bold action by the leader of the free world.

Who will we be supporting by arming unknown rebels in Syria? Will we not be getting involved in a Syrian civil war?

□ 1530

If the fight is with ISIL—and I believe there must be a fight against

these genocidal extremists—then let's take it to them in Iraq, begin by assisting the Kurds who have been doing the heavy lifting against ISIL after the Iraqis cut and ran.

I could support boots on the ground once again in Iraq, reclaiming the ground for which so much American blood and treasure has been expended to liberate, but not arming unknown rebels.

Do you remember Benghazi? We armed and assisted rebels there; and, now, al Qaeda controls Libya from Benghazi to Tripoli, even swimming in the U.S. Embassy swimming pool in Tripoli.

We should not send $500 million or $1 to rebels in Syria, especially at a time when the Department of Defense and National Guard budgets are being cut here at home.

I believe even the war-weary Americans are looking to support a plan from President Obama that is decisive, lethal to the enemies of freedom, and definitive. This plan is not it.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the McKeon amendment that would grant the President the authorization that he seeks to identify, train up, and equip moderate Syrian forces to stand up to ISIL in their backyard.

I do so because I believe this is the best of the bad options that we face that could halt the advance of ISIL in that region and begin degrading their capability and guard against the rising threat that they pose to us and to those in the region.

I do so for three reasons. I believe that the President needs a strong bipartisan hand coming out of this Congress this week that would help him continue to build the coalition of opposition to ISIL in the region. It is going to be one of the keys to the outcome—the successful outcome—of degrading ISIL's capability. We can't do this alone, and it will be determined by those in the region to stand up against this evil force.

Secondly, I believe this is the best plan to help us avoid putting our own boots on the ground and our own men and women in uniform in what is, in essence, an ongoing sectarian civil war that has gripped that region for centuries between the Sunni and Shi'a.

There is a lot of concern, especially from Guard and Reserve units in my congressional district in Wisconsin who have been activated, called up, and deployed multiple times to Iraq and Afghanistan. When I talk to them today, I can see in their eyes and hear in their voices how tired they are. They are concerned about another military intervention in this region.

Finally, I believe this resolution under title 10 will enhance congressional oversight of the mission that is taking place there and, therefore, bring greater accountability but also bring a greater say of the American people in addressing this rising threat in the region.

We are going to move away from the intel agencies running the show now and move it into the Pentagon, which brings us into the oversight capabilities which I feel has been lacking for some time in this endeavor.

This is not an easy decision. I believe the steps that we can take with this comprehensive plan now can avoid further military intervention in the future. Again, I think it is the best option we face amongst a lot of bad options.

May God bless our military personnel who will be in charge of carrying out this mission, and we all hope and pray for their success and safe return.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). Members are reminded to not traffic the well while another Member is under recognition.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER).

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the McKeon amendment before us that authorizes the administration to arm and train vetted moderate Syrian rebels in their fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL. This amendment also contains strong reporting requirements that the administration must follow to fulfill Congress' oversight authority.

ISIL has made territorial gains militarily in Iraq and Syria and announced the establishment of a caliphate in areas under its control. They have terrorized and killed members of minority groups, including Christians in northern Iraq, and have invaded Kurdish-controlled regions.

Minority groups are not the only victims being targeted. ISIL is also targeting Muslims. Last, but certainly not least, ISIL has beheaded two American journalists and a British aid worker. This type of radical, evil behavior must be wiped off the face of the Earth.

This amendment ensures that ISIL is not only confronted kinetically in Iraq but also in Syria. Providing the means for rebel groups to aggressively attack ISIL in Syria denies them sanctuary just across the Iraqi border, as is the case with the Taliban on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

An armed and trained Syrian rebel force, with assistance from the U.S. and partner nations, will open up a northern front to attack ISIL. Iraqi security forces and the Kurdish Peshmerga will be the claws in the south to squeeze this radical group. American airpower will no doubt be a force multiplier for these indigenous ground forces.

Mr. Speaker, there is only one country in the world willing and able to build a coalition of nations that includes Arab countries to defeat this radical threat, and that nation is the United States of America. The United States has an obligation to lead and respond whenever the innocent are being massacred.

Our enemies should never underestimate our resolve. Yes, we may argue and disagree on many issues; but, when it comes to protecting America, our allies, and our interests, we are united. I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the amendment.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a mother, I can see those who are now mourning because they have lost their babies, their family members. I can see the Yazidis in the mountains in Iraq fearful, and I can hear the cries of mothers whose sons were viciously beheaded by a terrorist group that most cannot understand the level of its viciousness.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to say that doing nothing is not an option, and I want to say to my friends and to my colleagues, ISIL has been here, for in 2005 Ayman al-Zawahiri, deputy head of al Qaeda, had a killer idea, and that was to establish an Islamic State.

It percolated for a number of years. In 2014, now, we have voices being raised across the world knowing that ISIL exists, and that is exactly what they want us to do, be terrorized. I refuse to be terrorized, and I also refuse to do nothing.

Mr. Speaker, I do not stand here today to vote for an authorization to use military forces. I will not vote to send our precious treasure again to that region, but I do believe that the President has a strategy, unlike some of my colleagues, a systematic campaign of airstrikes, increased military assistance, regional political effort and humanitarian aid, changing the face of the Islam religion that people believe is the Islam religion, and looking to those who support the core values of Islam.

That is a strategy; yet we have to address ISIL. There are 20,000 to 31,000 fighters making their way across the land; so I believe that an existing provision under section 10, provision 10, simply to train and to provide instruction to those individuals who can be in the fight in the region, train them with the expertise of the United States but not put our precious treasure on the ground.

ISIS has no restraint, and we remember the names of James Foley, Steven Sotloff, British aid worker David Haines, and 40-some members of the Turkish diplomatic corps held by ISIS and many others; so I believe it is important to note what we are doing here today.

In the McKeon amendment, it provides an opportunity for Congress to be advised 15 days before action. We should hold the administration to that. We should also say that any authorization for military forces, it must be a

debate on the floor of the House. I will not vote for that today. I will not vote for that.

I do believe, again, Mr. Speaker, that we cannot stand and do nothing. I think it is extremely important that we do something, and I hope others will look at the resolution that I have and the no fly for foreign fighters, H.R. 5488, which I have introduced.

I would like to add something else to the McKeon amendment. It indicates that appropriate committees will be advised. The legislative history of this debate should reflect that the Homeland Security Committee is an appropriate committee and should be one of those that is appropriately advised.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, today, we had a hearing in Homeland Security with the Secretary of Homeland Security. There is no doubt that what we are doing today is to protect the homeland.

What Americans say is they want the homeland protected. They want no more of their journalists beheaded by this heinous group.

Mr. Speaker, I close by simply saying we organized this Nation to form a more perfect Union. The Constitution says that Congress must declare war even as the President indicates that he has the authority under article II.

I believe if Congress is to do its job, we must have another debate on the authorization for military forces which we do not approve, but this is responding to the viciousness of ISIL, building up those regional forces, and making a difference.

I ask my colleagues: Can we do nothing? I think not. We must rise in support of this resolution today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the amendment offered by the Chairman of the Armed Services Committee to H. Res. 124, the resolution making continuing appropriations for Fiscal Year 2015.

Specifically, the "McKeon Amendment":

1. Authorizes the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to train and equip appropriately vetted elements of the Syrian opposition and other appropriately vetted Syrian groups or individuals;

2. Purports to strengthen congressional oversight by requiring detailed reports, including progress reports, on the plan, vetting process, and procedures for monitoring unauthorized end-use of provided training and equipment;

3. Require the President to report on how this authority fits within a larger regional strategy;

The McKeon Amendment does not authorize additional funds, but it would allow the Department of Defense (DOD) to submit a reprogramming request to Congress should the President request Defense Department funds to execute this authority and permit the Secretary of Defense to accept foreign contributions.

Finally, the McKeon Amendment states that nothing in it is to be construed to constitute a specific statutory authorization for the introduction of United States Armed Forces into hostilities or into situations wherein hostilities are clearly indicated by the circumstances.

It is important, Mr. Speaker, to be clear about what the McKeon Amendment does and does not do.

The amendment does not authorize the use of military force or deployment of United States combat forces to Syria.

Let me be clear: I am not voting today to authorize the use of military force or to put American combat boots on the ground.

Let me also be clear on this point: Before American armed forces may be deployed to conduct combat operations in Syria or elsewhere in the region the President must come to the Congress and request and receive from it either a declaration of war or resolution authorizing the use of military force.

This is not a political nicety but a constitutional requirement, clearly specified in Article I, Section 8, clause 11 of the Constitution, which by the way, was approved by the Constitutional Convention in 1787, 227 years ago this very day, September 17.

The McKeon Amendment simply authorizes the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to provide assistance, including training, equipment, supplies, and sustainment, to appropriately vetted elements of the Syrian opposition and other appropriately vetted Syrian groups and individuals for the following purposes:

1. Defending the Syrian people from attacks by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and securing territory controlled by the Syrian opposition;

2. Protecting the United States, its friends and allies, and the Syrian people from the threats posed by terrorists in Syria; and

3. Promoting the conditions for a negotiated settlement to end the conflict in Syria.

The McKeon Amendment cannot be construed as giving the Administration a blank check or carte blanche in achieving these objectives.

Rather, the McKeon Amendment requires that not later than 15 days before providing assistance to a vetted group for the first time, the Administration shall provide a report to the Congressional leadership and committees of jurisdiction describing in detail the assistance to be provided and the bases for the determination that the action contemplated are consistent with the objectives stated above.

Additionally, the McKeon Amendment requires that not later than 90 days after the Secretary of Defense submits the first report required by the McKeon Amendment, and every 90 days thereafter, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall provide the appropriate congressional committees and leadership of the House of Representatives and the Senate with a detailed progress report.

In short, the McKeon Amendment only authorizes the Administration to identify, vet, and provide assistance to those opposition Syrian forces that can be relied upon to defend the Syrian people from attacks by the murderous ISIS jihadi.

Mr. Speaker, there is little doubt that the Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham (ISIS), is a violent extremist movement. It grew out of the remnants of Al Qaeda in Iraq and the Syrian civil war—which has claimed the lives of 191,369 persons, tens of thousands at the hands of ISIS—and has spread its reach across the border between Iraq and Syria and is now seizing military bases and holding territory throughout the region.

In response, and at the request of the Iraqi government, President Obama has sent over 1,500 military advisors into Iraq and conducted over 150 airstrikes there to break the ISIS momentum, to protect U.S. personnel and save thousands of Iraq's religious minorities.

In his September 10, 2014 address to the nation, the President announced a four-part strategic plan to degrade and defeat ISIS.

The strategy outlined by the President involves the following elements:

1. a systematic campaign of airstrikes against ISIS;

2. increased military assistance and training for allied forces on the ground;

3. a regional political effort to work with allies; and

4. a humanitarian assistance to populations targeted by ISIS.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the President, Ranking Member SMITH, and Chairman MCKEON that ISIS poses a significant threat to American interests, requiring an effective response.

I also believe that the President should be commended for the forceful but deliberate and steady but calm leadership he has displayed to date.

But we must act in a careful, measured, balanced, and limited way to assist the Iraqi and Syrian people most directly and immediately threatened by ISIS because left unchecked, ISIS will grow to threaten the United States.

ISIS presently controls about 13,000 square miles (about the size of Massachusetts), spanning territory in Iraq and Syria, and a fighting force estimated to be between 20,000 and 31,500 fighters.

ISIS also commands substantial resources, including cash reserves estimated to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars and daily revenue of $3 million from largely criminal activities.

Mr. Speaker, after its gains in Syria and Iraq, ISIS stands as one of the most dangerous jihadist groups. It was formed in April 2013, growing out of al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), which has since condemned and disavowed the group for its barbarity.

It speaks volumes about any group that is too barbaric to be associated with al-Qaeda in Iraq!

Unlike other rebel groups in Syria, ISIS aims to establish an Islamic emirate that straddles Syria and Iraq. Since March 2013, ISIS has seen considerable military success, beginning with its takeover of the Syrian city of Raqqa—the first provincial capital to fall under rebel control.

In January 2014, ISIS took control of Fallujah, the predominantly Sunni city in the western province of Anbar. It also seized large sections of the provincial capital, Ramadi, and has a presence in a number of towns near the Turkish and Syrian borders.

However, it was its conquest of Mosul in June that captured the world's attention because with the conquest of Mosul came control of oil fields in northern Iraq and Mosul's branch of Iraq's central bank, from which ISIS took hundreds of millions of dollars.

The international community received a wake-up call on August 2, 2014, when ISIS

fighters pushed further into northern Iraq, overwhelming lightly-armed Kurdish Peshmerga forces that had moved into areas abandoned by the Iraqi army and seized the strategically important Mosul Dam, which supplies water and electricity to much of Iraq.

Knowing ISIS's reputation for unmatched brutality, tens of thousands of people fled their homes, particularly members of religious minorities, and 50,000 of them were trapped on Mount Sinjar without food or water, until their rescue was secured by the air strikes ordered by President Obama providing cover for the Kurdish forces who wrested back control of the Mosul Dam.

Mr. Speaker, ISIS derives significant revenues from the oil fields it controls in eastern Syria and from the sale of antiquities it looted from historical sites.

Today, ISIS is considered to be the most cash-rich militant group in the world, controlling assets estimated to exceed $2 billion.

ISIS has shown no restraint in dealing with civilian populations, acting with heinous violence and savagery. ISIS fighters have murdered and kidnapped civilians throughout the territory under its control, including the grisly beheadings of two American journalists, James Foley and Steven Sotloff, and British aid worker David Haines.

More ominous, Mr. Speaker, is the fact many fighters recruited by ISIS have European or American passports, making it easier for them to return home. That is also why I introduced H.R. 5488—No Fly Foreign Fighters Act to protect the homeland.

To his great credit, President Obama has not rushed to judgment. He has been thoughtful. He has consulted with the Congress and the international allies.

And the President has been adamant that the planned assistance and training to rebels fighting ISIS will not involve, or lead to, American ground forces fighting a war that must be fought by the Iraqi people and Syrian rebels.

The threat posed by ISIS in Iraq presents the United States with a conundrum about what to do about ISIS in Syria. On the one hand, we do not want to strengthen the barbaric Assad regime that is opposed by Syrian rebels and opposition parties and by ISIS. On the other hand, if we provide assistance only to anti-Assad opposition forces, we indirectly strengthen ISIS.

The challenge is to identify, vet, and support those pro-democracy forces in opposition to both the Assad regime and ISIS.

The defeat of ISIS should be prioritized over the removal of Assad, though the latter should remain a long-term U.S. objective. And U.S. assistance to opposition groups should be designed and delivered with this sequencing in mind.

Finding, vetting, and equipping capable and reliable Syrian partners who are poised to fight ISIS and the Assad regime is the central strategic challenge facing the United States in countering the rise of ISIS.

On June 26, and again on September 10, the Obama administration announced additional assistance to vetted moderate opposition forces that are fighting both the Assad government and ISIS and asked Congress to authorize $500 million to train and equip these fighters.

But a major effort to arm, train, equip, and enable possible U.S. partners inside Syria is no easy task because potential partners are weak, causing the Obama administration to hold back additional meaningful support.

But part of the reason these potential moderate alternatives to Assad and ISIS remain weak is because they do not have organized and well-coordinated assistance. These potential partners include the Syrian National Coalition; the interim Syrian government; the Supreme Military Council; the Free Syrian Army; and the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood.

The necessary vetting to find capable and reliable partners must be thorough, rigorous, and meticulous because we cannot afford to provide training, equipment, and materiel to opposition forces that in turn combine, or enter into a non-aggression pact, with ISIS.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time for the Members of this body to be thoughtful, deliberate, and wise. This debate today is healthy and reflects and enduring strength of our democracy: open debate, deliberation, and decision.

I urge all members to reflect carefully on the threat posed to the United States by ISIS and to vote their conscience on the McKeon Amendment, guided by their best judgment as to what is the best course of action to take to protect our homeland and keep our nation and its people safe.

For my part, I will not vote to authorize the use of military force or to deploy American combat forces in Syria. Instead, I will vote for the McKeon Amendment.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD).

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, a week ago, the President asked this House to include very narrow language in the continuing resolution that would allow the United States military to train and equip the Free Syrian Army individuals to defend themselves.

I can understand why any soldier in any country would want training from the United States military. They are the best-trained, best-equipped, best-disciplined, and best moral fighting force in the history of warfare. Many members of this body and of the administration have asked, for months, for greater training of the Free Syrian Army.

If we had not previously trained and equipped the Iraqis and the Kurds, ISIS would have already overrun Iraq and would have already moved against our allies in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice the concern though of the people of Oklahoma. We believe this administration has the habit of twisting every bill into what they want it to say rather than what it actually says; so I want to clarify this amendment.

This is not an authorization for the use of military force in Syria. The President has not asked for that authority, and the Congress has not extended it.

Mr. Speaker, in 2001, this body gave specific authorization to President Bush to ''use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organization, or persons he determines''—now get this—who ''he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001.''

The fighters currently on the battlefield with ISIS were about 8 years old on 9/11. The leaders of ISIS were teenagers. Unless this administration is able to show evidence that a group that did not exist on 9/11 or that 8-year-olds in Syria planned, authorized, committed or aided in the terror attacks on 9/11, the AUMF is not in effect from 2001.

This body is willing to deliberate and to engage with the American people in the sobering question of the use of military force, but we are not willing to abdicate our constitutional responsibility.

No one in this administration should understand this vote as a request to negotiate with Iran for their cooperation, offering to turn a blind eye or to turn our head while they advance their nuclear weapons program for their help and their cooperation. The world should not have to choose between ISIS or a nuclear Iran. Both are unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, this vote is also not an acknowledgement of the President's plan to defend our Nation from ISIS. We have not seen a plan.

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, this vote is not an acknowledgement of the President's plan because we have not seen the plan. Bombing some of ISIS' facilities and training 5,000 foreign fighters is not a plan.

If ISIS is a direct threat to the United States, we should treat them that way. Do not make the American people second-guess the threat by saying that the American people will be protected by the Free Syrian Army.

While I stand in support of this amendment today, the conversation must not end here. I look forward to the conversation in how the administration intends to constitutionally seek authorization to accomplish the strategy today for the American people and this body.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER).

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Armed Services Committee and my ranking member for their leadership on this issue and for the exhaustive discussions and briefings we have had. I also commend all of my colleagues for their thoughtful statements.

This is, indeed, a tough decision, but we are elected to make tough decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this amendment to equip and train the Syrian rebel forces. After countless briefings and the President's speech, I am left with more questions than answers. At a briefing today, former U.S. generals have opined that

training 3,000 to 5,000 members of the Free Syrian Army will be lame—in fact, totally inadequate.

Why would we train an inadequate number of FSAs to contain ISIL? How do we identify and vet a sufficient number of Syrians who can fight a long, protracted conflict to effectively degrade ISIL? How do we compel the Free Syrian Army to focus on ISIL instead of Assad, the brutal dictator they took up arms in the first place to destroy?

What will prevent Assad from continuing to attack the FSA? And what will we do in response? How do we avoid arming individuals that would rather do harm to the United States than ISIL? How do we create a true coalition that will share the burden of this conflict when some only agree tacitly behind closed doors?

Jordan has ISIL on both borders but cannot commit publicly to providing boots on the ground. How does a plan that relies primarily on airstrikes truly degrade ISIL's capability?

□ 1545

What I have heard in response to these questions simply doesn't add up.

We should have our eyes open wide enough to know that we are being asked to support today something much more than just training 3- to 5,000 members of the Free Syrian Army. There are consequences of what we have supported in the past, and there will be consequences today.

What happened when we spent billions of dollars to train and equip the carefully vetted Iraq military over almost a decade? They folded in the face of ISIL, many taking arms up with ISIL and others stripping their uniforms from their backs.

The plan before us is unrealistic and insufficient. None of the military experts outside the government believe that this strategy will topple ISIL. General Dempsey conceded yesterday that if this plan is insufficient, which I believe it is. He may recommend ground forces. He also said that there is no military solution to ISIL.

We should be frank with ourselves and the American people. We are not facing a limited engagement but a new war that will only escalate. We are setting out on a path to send our own troops to the ground. This is an amendment and a debate to start yet another war in the Middle East with a very uncertain future.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER).

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the amendment offered by Chairman MCKEON. We are way past any good solutions in Syria, but doing nothing would be the worst solution of all.

I understand and, in fact, share many of the reservations expressed by my colleagues today. This is not an easy choice. Yet we cannot ignore the threat of ISIL. They are determined to bring war to America's shores. We must respond.

The President's request to train and equip certain Syrian opposition forces is a necessary step toward defeating ISIL, so I will support it. I will also urge the President to do more to explain the true nature of this crisis to the American people.

This will not be an easy fight. Airstrikes alone are unlikely to destroy ISIL and diminish its ability to threaten America. Americans are understandably war weary, but we did not pick this fight. Our Nation always answers the bell to defend our way of life and protect our freedom. This time will be no different.

May God bless our military personnel who will be involved in this effort. May God continue to bless the United States of America.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. O'ROURKE).

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington for his leadership and the chairman for his on this very difficult issue.

I want to make one point clear to my colleagues. We are essentially declaring war through an amendment to a budget resolution.

Let's make no mistake. We are not simply training rebels in another country, Saudi Arabia, which, by the way, has been the most successful exporter of extremism and extremists in the world. We will reinsert those trained and equipped rebels back into Syria, and we will then be their air force. We will, through all intents and purposes, be a co-belligerent in a civil war.

So, if we are declaring war right now, I think we should do it with our eyes wide open, as my colleague just said, with a full debate, and only through the power vested in Congress through the U.S. Constitution.

The logical conclusion of our participation in this war, if successful, is to depose the Assad regime and replace it with one of our own making in concert with these rebels. That will be the third country in 13 years whose regime we have deposed and whose government we have replaced with one of our own choosing. It is the fourth that we have been involved in, if you include Libya, in whose government we have successfully deposed. In not one of those instances can I say that this has been a success.

We also have no Muslim-majority countries contributing ground troops to this operation. I think we owe wide deference to the President in matters of foreign affairs, but when it comes to declaring war, our Founding Fathers reserved that power for the people through their representatives in Congress.

This amendment to a budget resolution, which would enter us into this war in a formal manner, makes a mockery of that and does not do justice to the servicemembers who will be asked to put their lives on the line for this U.S. policy.

For those reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this amendment.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS).

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The terrorist Islamic State, or IS, is a grave threat to our friends and allies in the Middle East and to our homeland. There is broad bipartisan agreement that this threat must be confronted and destroyed.

It is important for the President to work with Congress to address this terrorist threat. The President should continue airstrikes and support Kurdish and Iraqi forces in their fight.

The amendment under consideration will expand the President's authority to conduct military operations in the Middle East through the training and arming of allegedly moderate Syrian rebels.

I have serious reservations about this amendment. There is simply not enough information about these rebels. Indeed, not even 2 weeks ago, the President admitted he did not even have a strategy to confront IS. I am looking to the administration to provide additional information about the rebels it is proposing to train and arm.

Several administration officials have stated that the rebels may be fighting both the Assad regime and IS. But against whom will the rebels first turn their weapons we give them? IS or the Assad regime?

I also have very serious reservations about including this expanded military authorization in the continuing resolution, a short-term funding bill. This authorization raises very serious issues.

Make no mistake. It will ultimately involve United States servicemembers, men and women from our cities, towns, and countryside, who will leave their families behind at home. Such a measure deserves consideration in a completely separate resolution.

The President should never have asked for such a serious matter to be added to a short-term spending bill.

I urge my colleagues to reject the amendment under consideration.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia, Ms. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the care that has gone into the preparation of the amendment before us.

I have perhaps more reason to be involved than most Members because my district, the Nation's Capital, is a perpetual high-level target for terrorists like ISIL.

Today I am compelled to come to the floor to convey the indignation of the residents of the District of Columbia that the Congress would even approach another period of war where participation of residents of the District of Columbia is virtually inevitable while

they have no vote whatsoever on this preeminent matter of war and peace.

District residents pay $12,000 annually, per capita, more in Federal taxes than residents of any other State, to support our government in war and peace. Regardless of what is decided on this amendment, Mr. Speaker, District residents will be there for America as they have been during every war our country has fought.

The Nation, however, should not ask D.C. residents to fight another war without consent of the governed who participate with taxes and live in the District of Columbia, the Nation's Capital.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS).

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, we will be debating an amendment which would not guard our Nation from terrorist infiltration nor even authorize our Armed Forces to eliminate ISIS personnel, equipment, and bases. Instead, the amendment authorizes President Obama to train and equip, with U.S. weaponry, members of the Syrian mujahideen, the so-called moderate rebels.

The amendment states that training and equipment can only be provided to ''vetted'' rebels, but who are those rebels? It says they can't be affiliated with ISIS, al-Nusra, and al Qaeda, which is good, but it would allow President Obama to arm other Islamist fighters who do not meet the threshold of being terrorists, including Harakat al Hazm fighters from the Muslim Brotherhood, the Syria Revolutionaries Front, and the Army of the Mujahideen.

Now, Mujahideen fighters in Syria are not moderates nor are they pro-American. They will take our arms and use them as they see fit, most likely to fight Assad in pursuit of installing a Sunni shari'a state in Syria. They cannot be counted on to vindicate our interests, which is why it is a mistake to subcontract out American national security to Islamist fighters.

Half measures like this, will not suffice. There are no shortcuts when it comes to our national defense.

So I constantly hear people say that Americans are war weary, and I disagree with that. I think Americans are willing to do what it takes to defend our people and our Nation. I think they are weary of missions launched without a coherent strategy and are sick of seeing engagements that produce inconclusive results rather than clear-cut victory. I think they are weary of a President that consistently proves himself unwilling to do what is necessary to win.

I have heard some colleagues say that arming the Syrian Mujahideen demonstrates strength and resolve. I think it is evidence of a lack of resolve. The President's strategy rests on wishful thinking. It is not sufficient to defeat the Islamic State.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I know the scourge of violent Islamic terrorism all too well. I represent the World Trade Center area in New York that was attacked on September 11, 2001. So I agree with the President that we must work together to combat ISIL.

Today, however, ISIL cannot project military power beyond the Middle East. ISIL is a direct military threat to our allies and to our interests in the Middle East. Perhaps we should help bolster the defenses of our allies, such as Jordan, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and the Emirates.

The current threat to the United States is from Europeans and Americans who may train with ISIL in the Middle East and then return to the United States to do us harm. This threat cannot be fought by military means in Iraq and Syria but by counterintelligence, appropriate surveillance, and border control here and abroad.

When it comes to ISIL operations in the Middle East, those very same operations that threaten our allies, we must ask why we do not see these threatened countries offering troops on the ground. Why are we more interested in their defense than they are?

These are some of the questions we in Congress should debate before we vote to go to war. Make no mistake; the offensive campaign of air attacks against ISIL that President Obama recently announced clearly constitutes a war within the meaning of the Constitution.

The Constitution very deliberately places the decision to go to war with the American people acting through Congress, not with the President. The decision to go to war against ISIL and to expand our efforts into countries like Syria requires congressional authorization.

The Authorization for Use of Military Force of 2001 cannot be relied upon for congressional authority for acts of war in circumstances completely unforeseen then against an enemy that did not exist then. Identification of ISIL with al Qaeda with the planning of the attacks on September 11, 2001, is specious. The Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 was, similarly, not about ISIL.

Congress must assert its constitutional power to authorize or reject the use of force in Iraq and Syria. We are not being asked today to authorize a new conflict with ISIL, even if that is implied by our vote today, and therein lies the danger. This vote without a vote on the wider Authorization for Use of Military Force will be taken by the public, the media, and perhaps even the courts as a de facto authorization of military force in Syria. This would undermine our ability to seriously debate the very real questions before us.

How deadly is the threat we are facing, and what is the best way to eliminate that threat?

What will happen when American fliers are shot down over Syria and perhaps beheaded on television by ISIL? Will the demand for revenge be overwhelming?

Just how steep is the slippery slope we are embarking upon?

How long will the conflict last?

Is there an exit strategy?

What does victory look like?

How much will it cost?

How many U.S. lives will be lost?

Whom will we be arming in Syria?

Do they share our long-term interests?

What are the odds those arms will be turned against us or allies?

It is precisely these types of questions that should be asked when Congress debates the Authorization for Use of Military Force. Until we have that debate in Congress and answer these questions and make a decision on an AUMF, we should not step foot on the slippery slope to another long war. Approving this amendment would be a big step onto that slippery slope, and so I must vote ''no.''

□ 1600

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the distinguished majority whip.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding and for working so hard with the Armed Services Committee through Chairman MCKEON to bring forth this amendment that ultimately lets the President start a process that he laid out in his speech last week.

Mr. Speaker, the threat of ISIS is real and growing. It is not just limited to the Middle East, though. Americans know this is ultimately something that we will have to confront if we don't address it now with swift action.

If you look at the legislation that has been brought forward, there were some important protections that were put in place over the course of the last few days in negotiations with the White House that, I think, are very significant and lay out clear benchmarks for President Obama over these next 3 months that this authorization would last.

The first thing the President has got to do under this authorization is to go and build that coalition. This is not a go-it-alone strategy. That is not going to be the kind of strategy that is going to work. The President has got to go and put those countries together to carry this out. He has got to get firm commitments, not only on amounts of resources that will be put in place, but also the number of troops that those countries would put in place.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, any transfers of funds that would be needed to carry this out would have to first come back to Congress before they can move forward. Any plan for vetting

Syrians who we would train, which is going to be an incredibly important process, has to come back to Congress, and those plans have to be laid out.

I think that is so important that those protections are in place because, ultimately, Mr. Speaker, the President is the Commander in Chief. He has asked for this authorization. But there has got to be a give and take and, ultimately, a role that Congress plays where the President is letting us know each step of the way that he is carrying out the mission as he laid it out, he is building that coalition that he said he would put together. And over these next 3 months, Mr. Speaker, it is going to be important that he does those tasks.

And ultimately, as we come back here to deal with this again, it is going to be important that the President lay out the broader strategy, because so many of our Members know this is not the final step that is going to eliminate the threat of Islamic terrorism. This is the very beginning. I think not only Members here in this body—Republican and Democrat alike—but I think people all across the country want to, ultimately, see that broader strategy by the President for how he is going to take on this challenge and eliminate these terrorists from the face of the Earth.

I rise in support and urge my colleagues to vote ''yes.''

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), my friend and colleague.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the amendment is to train and equip Syrian rebels. Well, let us see how that has worked in the past when America has trained and equipped individuals.

The United States has spent billions of dollars in Iraq to train and equip Iraqi soldiers. The first time they came in contact with the ISIS members, they cut and ran.

This is ISIS propaganda that was on the Internet.

This is an American tank now in the possession of ISIS when the Iraqis cut and ran.

This is a Humvee going through a parade; also, four Humvees that, apparently, have never been used that are now in the possession of ISIS when the Iraqis cut and ran.

Now we want to arm Syrian rebels to keep them fighting for America. Well, let us see how that has worked in the past.

In September 2013, The Wall Street Journal reported that ISIS raided a Free Syrian Army weapons depot, taking small arms and ammunition provided by the CIA.

In December 2013, Free Syrian Army weapons warehoused on the Syrian-Turkey border were seized by the Islamic Front. They, like the Iraqis, cannot keep up with American arms.

Second, some say in this amendment we will support the Free Syrian Army because they are going to be examined and we will make sure that they are vetted very well. But let us understand and see how that is working out.

What is a Free Syrian Army rebel today is an ISIS member tomorrow. It looks like, in December of 2013, Saddam al-Jamal, the northeast commander of the Free Syrian Army, announced his defection to ISIS and condemned those who worked with the West.

A Washington Post article, August 18: A high-level security commander of ISIS said that there is no more Free Syrian Army in eastern Syria because they have all joined—yes—ISIS. Isn't that lovely?

It is not a good strategic plan to arm Syrian rebels. If ISIS is a national security threat, then relying on rebels in a Syrian civil war will not protect American security interests.

The United States should have a strategy to defeat the barbarians of ISIS, but we should have that debate on this House floor and not rely on mercenaries to fight American national security interests somewhere overseas.

And that is just the way it is.

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER).

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, I join many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle in support of giving the President the initial authority needed to confront ISIS and Syria.

I am actually surprised and disheartened by the opposition that some here in this Chamber have towards the amendment. To be clear, I have been as vocal a critic of this administration's lack of strategy in Syria as any other person. But that does not excuse us from what, I believe, is the right thing to do, which is to give the Commander in Chief the tools necessary to confront this evil.

I don't remember many of my colleagues from this body stepping forward a year ago, or even a few months ago, urging the President to do more in Syria. In fact, at the beginning of this year, I called for bombing ISIS targets as they moved into Fallujah and Iraq. By many I was called a warmonger or somebody eager to start another war in Iraq.

It is easy to come up with any excuse not to support an amendment. Some say it doesn't go far enough. I have heard from a lot of people here that say it doesn't go far enough. Some people say that it goes too far, it is too much. It doesn't include an authorization of military force, it doesn't include an overarching strategy for ISIS or Syria.

I reject those calls for a perfect strategy from a perfect President for a perfect outcome in Syria. That is simply not possible given the circumstances we now face, due to our previous inaction.

Mr. Speaker, to those who believe that the Assad regime is a partner in the fight against ISIS, I would remind them this regime has slaughtered nearly 200,000 of its own people. In fact, in Iraq, when we were fighting al Qaeda in Iraq, the Assad regime gave AQI safe haven in Syria to fight American forces. And look no further than Hezbollah—one of the greatest enemies of the West and one of the greatest enemies of Israel is strongly supported and enabled by the Assad regime. The Assad regime created the ISIS problem, gave them safe passage through regime-controlled territory and, ultimately, attacked only Free Syrian Army targets until the West looked over, and now they look like the savior of the West by attacking only ISIS. Let's not get sucked into that argument.

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. I support this amendment, not because it is part of a larger strategy in Syria that we would like to see from this administration but because it is a first step in addressing ISIS in Syria.

I ask my colleagues to support this first step that many have been calling for to train the FSA before it is too late. What would our enemies and allies think if we rejected the President's authority to do this?

I urge support of this amendment.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member SMITH. I appreciate your leadership and your courtesy.

In Iraq and Syria, we are facing an excruciating set of circumstances where there is no clear path forward.

Our challenge in the face of the atrocities perpetrated by ISIS is to reduce the suffering of innocent citizens and our allies, and to protect our security at home.

To do nothing is an option, but it is likely the worst choice.

If ISIS were only a potential threat, I would feel differently. However, ISIS is a well-funded, heavily-armed militia whose strength is increasing and whose ranks have swollen to over 30,000 and counting by some estimates. They control an ever-expanding area across Iraq and Syria's border.

To stand by, allowing ISIS to expand and strengthen its hold in Iraq and Syria, we will encourage accelerated deterioration of the security in the region that will become more difficult to address and will, ultimately, become a threat to the United States.

We must also confront those in the region who say they oppose ISIS but

have yet to take action. Those regional players have an even greater stake in this struggle than the United States.

I think the ''least bad'' option is the McKeon amendment, which does not provide for an authorization for the use of military force.

I didn't support wars in Iraq or the later surge in Afghanistan, and I certainly would not support legislation that would expose us to another open-ended broad commitment.

This proposal strictly limits the use of United States ground forces in the region and would prevent an open-ended engagement in Iraq or Syria because the authority provided in this legislation sunsets December 11.

Any airstrikes or aid would come at no additional cost to our country, which has already spent hundreds of billions of dollars on war in the region, and requires the Department of Defense to reprogram existing funds or find regional allies to pay for our efforts.

This proposal to empower the President for 3 months is the most reasonable course of action at this point. It is not going to settle the long-simmering collection of conflicts in the region. Authorizing the President to train and equip highly vetted Syrian opposition fighters and strike a narrow set of ISIS targets, however, may degrade ISIS in a meaningful way.

These 3 months will give the administration an opportunity to show the progress and enlist support of other countries. Congress will then reassess these efforts in December.

In the meantime, we are not undercutting the diplomatic and military efforts of the administration. Helping the administration respond, allowing the situation to clarify, making some progress, and galvanizing support are the most we can hope for over the course of the next 3 months.

I remain open to alternatives, but after listening carefully to the debate, briefings from experts, and reviewing the materials, I see no better course at this point than the limited short-term initiative this amendment provides.

I plan on supporting the amendment and I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. POMPEO).

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for this opportunity.

The President spoke last week and he presented nothing that could be remotely considered a strategy, and yet, the American people understand the destruction of radical Islamic terrorism is mandatory. It is not mandatory for creation of democracy around the world, it is mandatory for keeping people safe in places like Omaha and Denver and Wichita, Kansas, the place that I represent.

Today, the world is watching what we will do here, what Congress will do. There are folks watching this in bunkers, there are people from Hamas watching how we will vote today. They are looking at how this Congress will respond to a President who has not laid out a strategy, who has now asked us to provide one arrow in the quiver, one small piece that doesn't amount to hardly anything remotely close to a strategy. They are looking to watch and see how we will respond.

And, today, we should respond by telling the President of the United States we will support his efforts to train and equip, but that we are going to watch and demand that he develop a strategy for the destruction of ISIL and for containment in the region as well.

Remember, it is not just ISIL that is the threat. The threat extends from Damascus to Tehran, it threatens Lebanon and Jordan, it threatens all the Middle East, and, indeed, if that territory is allowed to remain inflamed, will threaten us here in the United States.

Today, we take a very small action, a measured action, one that is necessary but hardly sufficient.

I urge my colleagues to support the McKeon amendment, and I urge the President of the United States to take action in a way that will defeat ISIL and defeat radical Islam and keep us all safe here in the United States of America.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN).

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

This is not a perfect plan. What America wants is a plan that guarantees success, and that success should be total destruction of ISIS immediately and without U.S. casualties. But the plan is a reasonable approach. It is the only approach on this floor. The alternative is to do nothing. No one has brought a better plan to this floor.

□ 1615

For those who say, ''Let's do nothing,'' reflect what we have accomplished through the President's action. The Yazidis have been saved from genocide. The Turkmen who otherwise would have been slaughtered in the many thousands are no longer besieged. The Mosul and Haditha dams are no longer under the control of ISIS. None of that would be true if the President had already not begun to take action.

I now yield to the gentleman from California for a colloquy.

Mr. Chairman, all the authority provided in this amendment will expire no later than December 11, 2014. Is that correct?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. MCKEON. Or the passage of the NDAA, whichever comes first.

Mr. SHERMAN. Whichever comes first. So it could even be sooner than December 11.

Second, the administration has stated that it will use this authority to train Syrian fighters outside Syria. I have a fact sheet, which I will enter into the RECORD, provided by the administration, stating that the training will take place outside Syria and that the Saudis have agreed to host facilities.

Mr. Chairman, can you confirm that it is, indeed, the administration's plan to do the training outside Syria?

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. SHERMAN. Is it your understanding that the training bases will be outside Syria?

I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, that is my understanding.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his answers.

Attached, please find a fact sheet on the Title X program, as well as a Q&A your boss may mind helpful. I stand by ready to answer any questions.

—Robert

ROBERT N. MARCUS,
Special Assistant to the President, White House Office of Legislative Affairs.

IMPORTANCE OF TITLE 10 TRAIN AND EQUIP IN DEGRADING & DESTROYING ISIL

The President has outlined a comprehensive approach to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL. Part of this approach involves building an international coalition and working with and supporting local partners.

The Syrian opposition can serve as an effective, local counterweight to extremist elements in Syria, particularly ISIL. That is why we have provided a variety of types of support to strengthen the Syrian opposition since the conflict began in 2012.

In his speech at West Point in May, the President announced his intention to seek Congressional approval of a Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund that would allow us to empower and enable partners in their fight against shared terrorist threats. As part of this Fund, and as described in his Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) budget request in June, the President requested authority for a Department of Defense (DOD)-led program to train and equip (T&E) vetted members of Syria's moderate opposition.

The T&E program can advance our counter-ISIL goals in Syria as well as our goal to work towards a political solution to the broader crisis in Syria. But ISIL's aggression in the region, paired with Saudi Arabia's new willingness to assist with this effort and impending expansion of our air campaign against ISIL, means that we must expedite the program's implementation. As ISIL is degraded and destroyed, a ground force capable of holding territory and taking advantage of gains is needed. The Syrian opposition can serve this critical role.

The T&E program will train vetted fighters, outside of Syria, to defend the Syrian people against extremists like ISIL as well as regime attacks; stabilize areas under opposition control; and help a subset of the trainees to go on the offensive against ISIL. Ultimately, the opposition will be able to hold territory from which ISIL is removed and help provide for a negotiated end to the broader conflict in Syria. We would provide lethal and non-lethal assistance to enable trainees to accomplish their missions and advance U.S. policy goals.

Initially, the program will rely on other U.S. government agencies and partner-nations that currently provide support to the vetted opposition to assist with the recruiting, vetting, and sustainment of the U.S-trained fighters. Saudi Arabia has agreed to host and support the training facilities. Additional allies are expected to contribute to the effort in the future, as well.

Q&A ON SYRIA T&E

1) Question: We spent billions training the Iraqi Security Forces who melted away the moment they faced ISIL, why would this force be any different?

Answer: Unfortunately, since the departure of the United States, years of leadership from former Prime Minister Maliki turned a competent force into a sectarian one, removing qualified leaders and severing normal lines of authority and communication, while alienating the broader Sunni community. The new inclusive government is committed to reforming Iraq's security forces and building a National Guard responsive to the needs of individuals communities. Syrian Opposition fighters are highly motivated to defend their homes and families from ISIL. What the opposition lacks is the resources to successfully resist and counter ISIL. That is precisely what we will work with our regional partners to give them. And, as a comprehensive approach and use of air power starts to change the momentum away from ISIL, the opposition will gain in confidence.

2) Question: How does the Syria T&E program fit into the Administration's strategy to degrade and ultimately defeat ISIL?

Answer: Building partner capacity—both the capacity of Iraqi partners and vetted opposition partners in Syria—is a key to denying ISIL safe haven, limiting its access to recruits, to include foreign fighters, and disrupting the group's finances. A multi-mission force will be trained to defend opposition-controlled areas from ISIL advances and enable the opposition to challenge ISIL's control of territory in Syria. Bolstering the vetted opposition also will increase their credibility and influence within Syria and pull potential recruits away from extremist groups.

3) Question: How can you ensure that Syrian fighters trained and equipped by DOD will not pass U.S.-provided weapons to extremists?

Answer: All participants in the T&E program will be subject to a rigorous vetting process led by our Intelligence Community, consistent with U.S. law and policy, including to ensure that they are not affiliated with extremist groups. They will undergo vetting to determine their eligibility for the program as well as after they have completed training to ensure that they will be eligible for additional U.S. assistance. We also will work closely with regional partners, including the Saudis, on our vetting process in order to capitalize on their knowledge of dynamics among the armed opposition. While we cannot guarantee that U.S. assistance will never fall into the wrong hands, we will take extensive measures to reduce the possibility that our trainees will pass weapons to extremists.

4) Question: How does the counter-ISIL strategy relate to the Administration's other goal of pressuring the Asad regime?

Answer: The T&E program is one component of our counter-ISIL strategy, but our investment in this force is not just for a counter-extremist role. As the President has said, Asad has lost all legitimacy, and Syria will not witness lasting stability so long as he is in power. Asad continues to present a false choice between radical Sunni extremists and his regime, but we know that there is a Syrian opposition. Strengthening the opposition provides the best counterweight to extremist elements within Syria as well as to the Asad regime.

5) Question: Why is the T&E program so urgent now?

Answer: Saudi Arabia has recently agreed to host and support the training facilities for this program. Their active support is a critical element of a broad coalition of countries combatting ISIL. Other Sunni countries are also getting on board. If they see us hesitate, they may back away and we will lose the momentum we are building against ISIL. In order to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL, we need the authority to increase our efforts to strengthen the Syrian opposition.

6) Question: What is the timeline for the program? How soon will trained fighters return to the battlefield?

Answer: This is a long-term investment, and one that will require some time on the front end for infrastructure development, planning, and logistics. We anticipate that initial trainees could complete training roughly four to six months after authorization and funding. We will work to expedite this timeline.

7) Question: Given the immediate threat posed by ISIL, shouldn't we have the T&E program focus entirely on ISIL?

Answer: The Syrian opposition continues to face threats from ISIL and the regime, which is why we must train them to be able to defend themselves against both enemies.

8) Question: Has ISIL negotiated a ceasefire with any element of the Syrian opposition?

Answer: We are looking into these claims as well as reports suggesting that one local brigade in Hajar al-Aswad may have reached a 24–hour agreement with ISIL that quickly broke down but that was intended to allow both sides to retrieve the bodies of their fighters who had been killed.

We would note that the Syrian Revolutionaries Front (SRF)—which is the group that the article claims has signed a ceasefire with ISIL—has issued a statement indicating that it has never ceased hostilities with ISIL and will continue to fight ISIL and the regime.

We will be thoroughly vetting any potential recipient of US assistance and, of course, any collusion with ISIL would be automatically disqualifying. Trainees will undergo additional vetting once they return to the battlefield. This vetting process will involve multiple US agencies and regional partners, and we have been using it to determine recipients of our non-lethal support to the Syrian opposition since early in the conflict. The training process will include the need to adhere to the law of armed conflict and respect for human rights.

A critical reason for our training and equipping the vetted, opposition is precisely to ensure they are capable of standing up to and countering ISIL at the local level. We are certain a vast majority of the Syrian opposition rejects ISIL, have been fighting it, and will be even more successful with our increased support. Again, we will only work with those opposition groups and members who reject ISIL and we are confident in our rigorous, layered vetting operation.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA).

Mr. HONDA. I thank the ranking member.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The threat of ISIL is beyond anything in the last 13 years since the horror of 9/11. We see there are no limits to gross brutality. They are a terrorist threat to the region, to the United States, and to our allies.

This rushed amendment to arm and train vetted Syrian rebels is not the answer. This Chamber needs to have an informed, robust discussion and debate about the U.S. role in combating and dealing with ISIL and other extremists in Syria and Iraq.

It is a debate that should take place on its own. This issue and this amendment should not be attached to the continuing resolution or any other matter before the House.

This amendment authorizes the training and equipping of vetted Syrian opposition forces, but we still aren't clear on who these forces are and how these rebel groups will be chosen and vetted. How do we ensure that our weapons, training, and knowledge won't be used by ISIL or other terrorist organizations in the future?

Additionally, this amendment only highlights a piece of the President's plan for addressing ISIL, a plan that includes significant long-term bombing campaigns and military escalation in Iraq and Syria.

If the House leaves for the next 8 weeks without addressing the already expanding scope of U.S. military operations in Iraq and Syria, I fear that we will return in November to find the U.S. sliding down a slippery slope toward full military engagement in those countries.

We have been there before. We have seen before how mission creep can expand a limited mission into a full-blown U.S. armed response. I will not let this happen or let this country be dragged into another conflict once again without an informed discussion.

Congress needs to debate a new authorization for the use of military force before any expansion of military operations. I support the President's call to dismantle ISIL through robust regional and international partnerships, support for local capacities on the ground, and expanded humanitarian assistance.

Arming and training Syrians and Iraqis and perhaps eventually supporting them with airstrikes may push back ISIL's gains, but it will not defeat extremism. There is no lasting military solution to extremism. The only lasting solution is a political solution, one in which the rights and concerns of all groups are respected.

The U.S. must focus on building partnerships in the region and around the world to encourage moderate Sunni groups in Iraq and Syria to move away from ISIL and towards an alternative and inclusive future. We also need to have a plan for the development of this region beyond our confrontation with ISIL.

I have deep reservations and important lingering questions that need to be debated on this floor. I am concerned about exposing our solders once

again to a protracted conflict with unclear objectives and no clear exit strategy.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. HONDA. I cannot support this rushed amendment that allows the U.S. to wade back into another conflict without a serious, informed discussion of the United States' military role in combating ISIL. We need to fully debate and discuss actions we as a Nation take against this vicious foe.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE).

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, ISIS poses a savage threat to the world, to Muslims and Christians in Iraq and Syria, to our allies, and to the United States. It has executed heinous acts of terror and violence and, tragically, will continue to do so. Allowing it to thrive unchallenged is not in the national interest of the United States of America.

Today's vote is not a blanket authority but a thoughtful, detailed, and limited effort to confront ISIS. We cannot and should not do this alone. We need tangible support from a global coalition and will evaluate the commitment level in 3 months. The administration must continue to work to ensure that Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and other Islamic nations are involved in this multinational effort.

Despite reservations and questions, in my judgment, we must take action. The threat is real, and ISIS must be confronted now. I support the McKeon amendment because it is thoughtful and it provides the experts here in Washington the authority they need to put together a clearly-defined, realistic strategy.

This amendment does not authorize the use of military force; indeed, the amendment includes language that makes it explicitly clear that this is a train-and-equip authority and not an authorization for force.

Mr. Speaker, I support this amendment, and, in the weeks and months to come, the House of Representatives must use its oversight powers under the Constitution to monitor this strategy and to demand changes as necessary.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire, does the gentleman have any additional speakers?

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, yes, we do have additional speakers.

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the gentleman from Texas for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the McKeon amendment and in support of the continuing resolution.

I want to say this: I have heard a lot of people say this process isn't good and that we haven't had enough hours of debate, but I would say to Members of Congress: Have we not, in fact, had days and weeks of debate? How is it that you are a Member of Congress if you haven't thought about ISIS and the situation?

In fact, have we not had 13 years to debate this very subject internally, externally, on the floor, in committee, and off the floor? We certainly have had a lot of time for deliberation on this.

Secondly, I want to say this: I am not certain that the President needs further approval from Congress, as I have gone back and read the resolutions of 2001 and 2002. I would also say, though, we should have a formal resolution. It would be good for the country, it is good for Congress, it is good for the education process, and it sends a very strong signal to our enemies.

Perhaps when the President sends it to us—and I hope he will in November or December—we will have an opportunity to have the debate again, and we can review how effective these airstrikes have been at that time, how effective is the training program, how well is it going, and what allies have actually stepped up and what have they contributed. Right now, we do not have the answer to those questions.

I will say another thing, Mr. Speaker: If we are going to fight this war because it is worth fighting, then it is well worth winning, and, speaking for myself, I want the Commander in Chief and our armed services to have all the tools that are available to them.

If that means having ground troops on the table, then I want to be sure that we send that signal because the last thing we need to do right now to our enemies abroad is say we are not going to do this or we are not going to do that.

We can't have a half-pregnant war. We have got to fight to win and wipe out this terrorist surge.

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach the end of 6 hours of debate on this amendment, I think it has been a good and healthy discussion. According to our count, we have had more than 90 Members of the House come to the floor and express their opinion about this situation with ISIL and Syria and Iraq.

I think part of that is it has given all Members an opportunity to express their opinions and concerns and hopes about what we can do as a country going forward, but it seems to me, through the course of these numbers of hours, that most Members agree on at least three things.

One of the things that most everybody agrees on is that ISIL is a significant threat. It seems to me they are clearly the best-equipped, best-trained, best-financed terrorist organization we have ever faced.

In addition to that, as the ranking member noted at the beginning of the debate, there are thousands of people who have Western passports who are fighting with ISIS who can easily come to the United States and Europe to launch their attacks.

The second thing I think most people agree upon is that this is a very complex situation. We have the Syrian civil war underway. You have the change of government in Iraq. You have the situation with the Kurds.

There are many players—Iran—that make this a very complex situation. All of those Members who go down and say there is no good alternative, I think I agree with that. There is no perfect alternative to deal with this.

The third thing about which there is a lot of agreement, Mr. Speaker, is there are a lot of doubts about the President's plan, a lot of doubts about whether it is going to be enough to defeat ISIL, a lot of doubts about the commitment of the administration to follow through on the plan and to persevere over time; but, in addition to that, even if it is well-done and implemented perfectly over time, no one knows for sure how this is going to come out.

With those broadly agreed-upon facts, Members have reached different judgments and different conclusions, but it just seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that approving this amendment to give the military—the Department of Defense—the authority to train people in Syria as part of that fight makes sense.

Just to briefly review what is in the amendment—because during these 6 hours of debate there has been a lot of discussion, some of it about things that are not in the amendment—but what is in the amendment is that the amendment authorizes the Department of Defense to train folks in Syria as part of the fight against ISIL, and it is absolutely true that the Department of Defense has done this very thing in at least 40 countries.

Now, for all those people who say this is a slippery slope to war, I just note we are not in war in 40 countries. We train people around the world every day, and the military does a very competent job of it. That is what this authority does—that is it—train folks to defend themselves.

□ 1630

This amendment has an expiration date, as you just heard, either December 11, 2014, or the passage of the NDAA, whichever happens first.

There is a broad array of oversight, beginning 15 days before anything is done, and then every 90 days thereafter specific requirements of information that has to come to this Congress.

There are limits on the funding. If U.S. taxpayer dollars are used, then the Congress has to be notified and basically, through the transfer authorities, Congress has to approve.

Finally, it is absolutely clear, because it says so, this is not an authorization to use military force.

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 additional minute.

All of those people who are concerned that it is not an Authorization for Use of Military Force may have a very good point, but that is not what this is about. This is about a narrow train-and-equip authority that would provide the Syrians the ability to get into that fight against ISIL.

So the bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is that I think another thing most everybody agrees upon is you can't defeat this group from the air. You have to have folks on the ground. We have folks on the ground with the Kurds. We have folks on the ground who will be more competent with the Iraqis. We need some folks in Syria to be on the ground.

That is what this amendment does. It is narrow. It has oversight. It has limits. It has a time limit. But as General Dempsey told all Members, it is necessary, but, in and of itself, it is not enough. But it is necessary.

I believe that the House ought to take this step today to begin this training, and then it is up to the President to make his strategy work.

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

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

I think one of the things that makes this difficult is there are so many issues swirling around here: the desire; the need that I think, as Mr. THORNBERRY said, that everyone agrees on to confront and contain ISIS.

Their savagery is just unimaginable. They are clearly a threat to us and to the region, and we need a plan for confronting them, for stopping them and, hopefully, ultimately defeating them.

Now, part of that plan is what we are doing in Iraq. Part of that plan is trying to figure out how to deal with them in Syria.

But aside from all of that, this amendment is far more basic and simple, and I think Mr. THORNBERRY explained it. It is a train-and-equip mission. This is something that the Department of Defense does all over the world in a variety of different places. We have had a great deal of success training armies in Ethiopia and Kenya and Uganda to help deal with the situation in Somalia. We have had considerable success training forces in Yemen to help confront AQAP. The goal of this is to reduce the requirement for a robust U.S. military presence to advance our interests.

I have heard a number of folks, particularly on my side of the aisle, express that concern, that we don't want to go down the slippery slope of committing U.S. forces to a large-scale war, and I completely agree with them. But this amendment does not authorize military force. In fact, it is quite the opposite. It authorizes us to train local forces so that they can do the fighting.

I have also heard a number of people express the frustration which I share: we shouldn't be over there fighting these battles; we need the local populations there to stand up and fight for themselves. But that is precisely what Mr. MCKEON's amendment enables us to do. It enables the military to train local forces to fight ISIL on our behalf. And this is important, not just because it keeps us out of the fight, but because it gives us a far greater chance of being successful.

If this is perceived as the U.S. coming in against the Muslim group, then that gives ISIS a powerful propaganda message to say that they are simply defending themselves against Western aggression. If, on the other hand, they continue to do what they have been doing, which is killing Muslims and fighting Muslims, then we can recruit and get greater support from the local Sunni population to stand up against them.

This is what was successful about the Anbar Awakening back during the Iraq war, when Sunni tribesmen rose up against al Qaeda, with our support, and were able to turn the tide in Iraq at that time. That is why this is so important.

Now, the big issue of concern is what is going to happen within Syria. Are there truly moderates?

There are, unquestionably, moderates in Syria. Now they have been under a lot of pressure for the last couple of years from the Assad regime, but also from al Qaeda-affiliated groups like al-Nusra and also from ISIL. So they are clearly there. We know this because they are already, in some instances, fighting against ISIL. They are just not properly trained. They are not properly equipped, and they haven't been doing particularly well for the last couple of years. So if we can train them, they have a chance to survive.

And that is the last point that I will make. I think people can legitimately say: Is this really going to turn the tide of the war? Is this really going to defeat ISIL and give us success? This alone, absolutely not. But what it does is it gives us a chance, because if ISIL is allowed free rein in Syria, if they are not confronted by anybody but Assad, then we have no chance of defeating them.

We can do our best in Iraq, but if they can just go right across the border into Syria, as we have experienced trying to fight the Taliban in Afghanistan as they go across the border into Pakistan, if they have a safe haven where they can go without being pressured, then it is going to be very, very difficult to ever defeat them. The only way we can take away that safe haven is to find a local force that will fight our fight, and we can't get there if we don't train them.

This is about enabling the moderates in Syria enough space to survive. They survive, we slowly build from there to get us the force that we need to defeat them in Syria and, ultimately, beat back ISIL in both Syria and Iraq.

This is not a perfect plan. This is not going to solve all problems. Believe me, it wouldn't take too long to find difficulties and challenges in any plan that was put out there, but I think this is a good and prudent step that gives us the best chance of advancing U.S. national security interests in a reasonable way.

I urge this body to support this amendment. I thank Mr. MCKEON for bringing it.

I also want to join Mr. THORNBERRY. This has been an excellent debate. It is great to have so many Members come down and so articulately explain their positions. I urge support for the amendment.

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

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

I want to thank ADAM SMITH, my ranking member and partner for the last few years in this effort. I think he was very eloquent. He did a good job in working this debate. I think we have heard from both sides of the aisle, both positions, and it has been a strong debate.

I want to thank Mr. THORNBERRY. He has been my vice chairman, sidekick, for the last couple of years, carried a heavy load. He is a vice chairman of the committee, but he is also chairman of a subcommittee and also serves on the Intelligence Committee and a strong, strong Member, as you can see. He did a great job of explaining the bill, laying it all out in summary form after this long debate.

There is just one other point I want to mention, and that is that there is no new money in this bill. The President did not need additional money, and any money that is needed will be reprogrammed from money that already exists. They have to come back to the Congress and go through the process to make that change. But there will be nothing added to the top line.

I want to thank our staff who worked so hard on this. This came late in the process. The President sent us language last week. It wasn't something that we could support.

I want to thank leadership for giving us the time to work this issue, that, instead of voting on it last Thursday, we had time to work. The staff worked all weekend, both sides of the aisle. Thank you. Thank you for your strong work.

We hear sometimes about government workers and they are kind of just at the government trough. I want to tell you, these people work hard, long hours, and they are devoted to their jobs. Most of them could leave here and make more money, but they are committed to what they are doing, and I want to thank them for it.

Finally, I would just like to say, as a final wrap-up, this letter that I put in earlier, where Ambassador Crocker,

Ambassador Ford, who have spent years in this area, really understand the people, understand what is going on in that area, and then General Keane, General Petraeus, who both have spent a lot of time on this issue, the four of them have signed a letter that they sent over to us this morning that they support this amendment.

I agree with, I think, probably everybody that spoke that this will not do everything, but it is an important step at this time, and I urge our colleagues to support this amendment to give our Commander in Chief the authority that he needs to protect us in this area.

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I agree with President Obama that the destabilizing and destructive actions of ISIL demand an American response. While I am supportive of President Obama's targeted actions against ISIS to date, I believe our government must be mindful of the unintended consequences inherent in training and equipping fighters in a highly complex foreign conflict For this reason, I authored a successful bipartisan amendment to the House's Defense Appropriations bill this summer, prohibiting the transfer of dangerous shoulder-fired antiaircraft missiles known as MANPADs to parties in the Syrian civil war. As President Obama uses any authority granted by Congress to train and equip Syrian rebels, I hope he honors the will of the House of Representatives to prevent the dissemination of these and other dangerous weapons in the Middle East and beyond.

We must remain cognizant that military force is not the solution to the strife afflicting Iraq and Syria. I continue to oppose the presence of U.S. ground troops in the region. We must do all we can to eliminate funding sources for ISIL and to support inclusive governance and vigorous dialogue while respecting Iraqi sovereignty. We must also do what we can to promote a peaceful settlement in Syria and to invest in employment-focused economic development throughout the region.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the H.J. Res. 124, the Continuing Appropriations Resolution of 2015 with the McKeon Amendment, which would allow for the training and equipment of Syrian opposition. Should a clean continuing resolution to provide finding to the United States government come to the floor, I would support it. However, I cannot support an authorization for war.

Since this body did not pass a budget on time, our only option is to vote to keep the government open and operating until December 11, 2014. Funding our government should not hinge on a controversial amendment added at the last minute that provides the opportunity for an open-ended war.

I am not in favor of unilateral action or troops deployed to the region and I am committed to resolving this conflict through diplomacy. I fully support any efforts by our country to provide humanitarian aid to the countless innocent civilians displaced and injured by this conflict.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment and push for a clean continuing resolution.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the terrorist organization known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) is a growing regional threat that presents greater instability and turmoil across the Middle East. Today ISIL does not pose a credible strategic threat outside of the Middle East. So the U.S. response must reflect that reality. We cannot allow the Dick Cheneys of the world to use the horrific beheadings by ISIL as a call to war, just like the Gulf of Tonkin incident or the alleged weapons of mass destruction capabilities of Saddam Hussein. I am voting against this authorization to equip and train as yet unknown, perhaps non-existent ''moderate'' Syrian opposition forces to combat ISIL.

The three most successful ground forces fighting in Syria are ISIL who has ties with Saudi Arabia, the Syrian army backed by Iran, and Al Nusra which has ties to Hezbollah. The alliances between these forces are constantly shifting. One day ISIL and Nusra make common cause against the Syrian army and the other day they are all fighting each other. These sectarian wars are based on thousands of years of history and the U.S. has no role in sorting them out.

Congress is being asked to vote today on arming Syrian rebels that are yet to be vetted by the U.S. In fact, the text of this authorization requires the administration to report to Congress within 15 days on the plan for providing this assistance. Congress should know what the plan is before we vote on it. We should come back in 15 days or however long it takes for the administration to determine the scope and plan of this operation and who it is that the U.S. is going to arm in Syria. It is an abdication of our constitutional duties to vote on a vague authorization today instead of waiting and passing judgment on a more detailed assessment on this operation and an updated authorization for use of military force (AUMF).

If you turned to any of my colleagues today and asked the basic question who are the 5,000 fighters that the U.S. will train and equip in Syria, they could not give you an answer. Not even our intelligence agencies know who we can trust. Before granting authorization, Congress should at least know who it is we are giving U.S. weapons to and what their ideology and political goals are. This is a complex mess of various actors, many of whom cannot be considered trustworthy allies. The Syrian opposition is made up of hundreds of thousands of fighters from various factions that are also fighting amongst each other.

In Iraq, the U.S. is looking to form an alliance with a new government whose current Prime Minister has yet to prove he will bring Sunnis back to their proper place in an inclusive society. At the moment the Iraqi army barely exists on paper. It is extremely disturbing that the main Iraqi force currently fighting ISIL, Asaib Ahl al-haq, is incredibly hostile to the U.S. and was attacking our troops up to the last day of the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

That is why it is so critical that Congress be presented with a detailed plan of this ''train and equip'' operation including who it is that we are arming before we vote and this amendment fails to do that.

Most importantly what we are voting on today is a small part of President Obama's larger strategy to go to war with ISIL. No President can declare war without Congressional authorization. If the U.S. is going to war with ISIL as it appears that we are, then my colleagues need to stay here and debate and vote on an AUMF. It is our constitutional duty and to leave town without a vote on the overall military strategy is disgraceful. The American people did not elect us to punt the responsibility for matters of war and peace to the President. The purpose of an AUMF is to lay out in detail the scope, plan, purpose, and duration of a military operation and to provide both classified and non-classified briefings to Congress and allow them to debate and express their opinions on the merits of this. Absent an AUMF from Congress, we are committing ourselves to an open ended war, declared by the President about which we have little to no details.

Lastly, history has shown that U.S. involvement in sectarian as well as civil wars raging in the Middle East does not benefit our interests. ISIL would not exist today if it were not for the unnecessary U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003, which I voted against. ISIL is a regional threat and it is time for Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Jordan, and other so-called ''partners'' to step up and fight this war themselves. They have no incentive to do it if we keep fighting it for them. Additionally, arming Syrian rebels could drag the U.S. into the Syrian civil war. General Martin Dempsey said yesterday in his testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee that he would put U.S. troops on the ground if he felt it was necessary despite the President's numerous statements that he would not put boots on the ground. Already you can hear the march to war. In fact, it is easy to argue that continued U.S. military actions in the Middle East only create more hatred directed at our nation and increase the risk of terrorism both here and abroad.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

There is not a member of this body who does not share the view that the terrorist organization known as the ''Islamic State in the Levant'' (ISIL) is a threat to the people of Iraq and Syria. ISIL's acts of barbarism are well known. The question before us is whether arming an amorphous and largely unknown Syrian opposition is the proper response to ISIL's rise.

The idea of arming the Syrian opposition has been discussed and even debated in this body over the last several years. And until now, Congress has rejected military involvement with Syrian opposition groups because we did not truly understand the size, composition, and intentions of the various opposition groups, and were concerned that the unforeseen consequences of our involvement could easily ruin any advantages there might be. The fact that ISIL emerged unexpectedly out of the Syrian fighting and surprised us with their military success in Iraq illustrates well America's lack of understanding of the situation. Furthermore, just this week, the head of the Free Syrian Army was quoted as saying if his group received U.S. aid, he would use it against the Assad regime, not against ISIL. As I have pondered this question and discussed it with experts and with citizens in New Jersey, I have come away with more and more questions about the wisdom of the proposed action we are debating today.

The President's proposed strategy seems very similar to the one we have pursued in previous conflicts: arm and train local forces in the region and plan to turn over responsibility for the fight to those governments. That strategy failed spectacularly in Iraq. Earlier this

year, U.S. trained-and-equipped Iraqi security forces melted away in the face of ISIL forces. We have been told the reason was because of the Iraqi government under former Prime Minister al Maliki. With a new Iraqi government in Baghdad results would be better. That is hardly a believable or a reassuring argument.

The American public was told the same thing years ago after the South Vietnamese generals ousted Premier Diem in late 1963. If only we had the right leadership in Saigon, they argued, we could win the war. In the wake of that U.S.-sponsored coup, the political chaos in South Vietnam only deepened, and the Viet Cong and their North Vietnamese allies benefited from and exploited the situation to their political and military advantage, and less than a year after Diem's ouster President Johnson began committing large numbers of American ground troops to Vietnam in a vain effort to roll back the rising tide of support for the Viet Cong. Of course, the situation today in Syria and Iraq is not exactly like Vietnam under Diem or Iraq under Saddam, but we are slow to learn lessons.

Proponents of this resolution argue that a newly trained and equipped Iraqi security force may be in the field in a few months. If history is any guide, it is unlikely that schedule will be met, and in any case, Administration officials have made it clear they believe the Iraqi security forces will require significant external help for years in order to retake ISIS-controlled territory in Iraq.

In Syria, the Administration now proposes to arm an amorphous collection of Syrian opposition groups in the hopes that they can become a viable combat force. Arming Syrian rebels brings to mind our experience with the Afghan mujahedeen a generation ago. Can we have any confidence that our weapons will not be used against us eventually? The amendment before us explicitly acknowledges—through its reporting requirements—that American advisors may be killed by supposedly friendly Syrian opposition fighters, just as American advisors have been killed by Iraqi and Afghan turncoats in those nations. This amendment also recognizes—again through its reporting requirements—that American military aid may be diverted to Islamic militants through Syrian opposition traitors. If we can already see that this proposed action will lead to dead American advisors and pilfered American military aid, why are we continuing down this road?

It was telling that during his trip to the region earlier this month, Secretary of State Kerry came up empty when he sought concrete military commitments from other countries—even countries directly threatened by ISIL and its ideology. In the 1991 Persian Gulf war to oust Saddam Hussein's army from Kuwait, each of those nations contributed significant military forces or allowed the use of their bases for Coalition forces. If the governments most threatened by the march of ISIL refuse to commit combat forces against it while American pilots are risking their lives daily in airstrikes against ISIL in Iraq, why should we put more American lives at risk on the ground in Iraq and Syria? I must vote no.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the McKeon Amendment because I believe training and equipping moderate Syrian rebels to fight ISIL will increase the likelihood of success in our effort to rid the world of this threat.

We have seen that ISIL will ruthlessly slaughter anyone who does not adhere to their horrific ideology—including Muslims, Shia and Sunni alike. ISIL, with large numbers of Western fighters, is a threat not only to the Middle East but to Europe and America as well. We have seen their disgusting brutality with the beheadings of two brave American journalists, as well as others of diverse nationalities.

We must be clear about what this amendment is and what it isn't. It is not an authorization for the use of force against ISIL in Iraq and Syria. The Administration has stated that it believes it already has the authority to conduct a military campaign against ISIL, and they are proceeding pursuant to this authority. I would support a reexamination of the 2001 authorization by this Congress so we can fully debate its applicability to current threats. Thirteen years after its passage, it may be wise to refine it to empower the President to go after ISIL and other groups that pose a danger to America. This is our constitutional duty.

But this amendment is much more limited. It would simply authorize the training and equipping of Syrians to fight ISIL. Again, it does not authorize an American invasion of Iraq or Syria. If it did, I would not support it. In fact, I support this amendment precisely because I oppose an American ground war and believe we must eliminate the threat from ISIL without putting thousands of American troops in harm's way.

I oppose another American ground war not only because I believe that we have sacrificed enough already in two wars in the Middle East, although this is certainly my belief I oppose another American ground war primarily because for our campaign against ISIL to have sustained success, the combat troops driving out ISIL need to be Iraqi and Syrian, and in particular, they need to be Sunni. We actually defeated ISIL in their previous incarnation as Al Qaeda in Iraq. We were successful in doing so because we built political support among Iraqi Sunnis. Unfortunately, former Prime Minister Maliki's sectarianism alienated the Sunnis, and this, combined with Bashar al-Assad's brutality against Sunnis in Syria, allowed ISIL to emerge without really being challenged by the moderate majority of Sunnis, who saw them as the lesser of two evils.

Given this reality, the best way to eliminate the threat from ISIL is to empower moderate Sunnis in Iraq and Syria to drive them out of the areas they control. The development of a nonsectarian government in Iraq is a step in the right direction in that country, and this limited amendment is a step in the right direction in Syria. It cannot be the only step; we must continue to work with Sunni Arab countries so that the Sunnis of Iraq and Syria know that there is a much better future for them than the destructive brutality of ISIL.

The fight against ISIL will not be short, and it will not be easy. This should not, and will not, be the last time this body addresses this international challenge. Today we are asked to take a reasoned, sensible step on the path to ridding the world of ISIL's scourge. It is a step that we would be wise to take.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I support the McKeon Amendment to the Continuing Resolution.

As a nation, we have faced many threats to our national security over the 238 years of our existence. But the danger presented by the Islamic State may be unique in its hostility, raw hatred, and dedication to eliminating the United States from existence.

Less than a week ago, we observed the anniversary of the devastating attacks of September 11, 2001. Then, as today, we are reminded of the true nature of this enemy. They will attack at will, without provocation, and without regard for the lives of any innocent people who stand in their way. In fact, the more innocent the lives they take, the better—for their purposes.

I am pleased that President Obama has finally acknowledged the threat the Islamic State presents to our national security. Not content with wreaking havoc in their own corner of the Middle East, these terrorists have conquered territory, beheaded innocent Americans, forged allegiances with al Qaeda, threatened to strike us at home, and pledged to raise their flag over the White House. They are a muscular and growing menace that must be dispatched.

After our briefings on the situation in the region and the President's proposed strategic outline, I will be supporting his efforts on behalf of the nation. But I do so with some reservations.

With what we know now, this is not a perfect plan by any means, and I trust the President will listen to the counsel of his military advisers. American military strength will be evident in powerful air strikes, but on the ground, we will be relying on a fighting force trained quickly by American personnel. These are not seasoned fighters. These are just regular people—doctors, pharmacists, plumbers, or laborers. They are not soldiers, although very shortly we will be asking them to be.

These rookie ground forces will be entering into what the President has called an anti-terrorism operation, which is, in reality, a war. The administration and its representatives have been reluctant to use that word, but when our enemies have declared war on this country, there is no other terminology that is appropriate. And it will be a two-front war—on one side they will be fighting in Syria, and on the other, in Iraq. This will not be an easy fight, and I pray that they meet with more success than their military qualifications and experience suggests they might.

Another issue that I find troubling is that we do not know exactly who we will be assisting. While we trust and depend on their courage and determination in defeating what we perceive to be our common enemy, we truly do not know what their core loyalties are. This is a situation that will require constant monitoring.

The international coalition the president says he is assembling will be key, as other countries will be called upon to fund much of the effort, and, we hope, ground troops. Though the president has pledged significant air strikes, I find it hard to believe that many nations will be convinced to enter into the conflict with full commitment, while our own president has made it clear that the United States has firmly defined limits on what it will and will not do. That is another concern that I have—that the President has broadcast to the world, and the enemy, exactly what will not be in his war plan.

In the end, the President is the Commander in Chief, though I believe it is right that Congress vote on matters as important as this. The bottom line for me, Mr. Speaker, is that today we are all Americans. We are not Republicans or Democrats.

Throughout our history, presidents from different political parties have come to Congress

asking for our blessing for moving forward with armed conflict. With what I know now, and with the chance to continually examine this endeavor, I am prepared to give my consent.

That is why, despite my reservations and my concerns about the effectiveness of the somewhat vague strategy the president has outlined, I will be supporting the amendment to the Continuing Resolution. We must present a united front. It is vital that we show the world that all of us, as Americans, are together in fighting this common enemy.

Absolutely essential in gaining my support for the amendment is the requirement that the administration provide detailed and regular reports on the effectiveness and status of the ongoing training and equipping efforts. We must know that what we are doing is having the intended effect.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a perfect plan. And I worry that moving forward in such a way can be described as somewhat less than a full effort to defeat an evil that has pledged to exterminate us.

But sitting by and doing nothing was never an option.

While we take this vote, I am reminded that even with the most careful planning, any armed conflict is inherently perilous for the men and women in our military. My thoughts and prayers go with them and their families as they head toward danger.

I urge my colleagues to support the McKeon Amendment.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Defense Secretary Hagel stated, ''We are at war with ISIL.'' He also said, ''this will not be an easy or brief effort.''

The current debate on the McKeon amendment does not address the ''war with ISIL,'' but rather solely training, arming, and supporting Syrian fighters. The CIA is already training and arming Syrian fighters in Jordan, without congressional approval. How well has that worked? We are not discussing that as a body because this is a policy debate that has been rushed. The Republican majority in the House is determined to adjourn on Friday so their Members can return home and campaign for re-election.

Yes, Congress needs to pass a continuing resolution to keep the federal government funded and prevent another government shutdown before the start of the new federal fiscal year on October 1st. But, a ''must pass'' continuing resolution should not be the legislative vehicle for sanctioning the training of Syrian fighters in what is certainly to be a long war against the Islamic State's terrorist army.

Over and over during the debate on this amendment we have heard how ISIL is a threat to the United States, expanding its reach into Iraq and strengthening its hold in Syria, while committing brutal and widespread acts of extreme violence. All Members agree that ISIL has grown into a vicious terrorist army that must be stopped and destroyed. Yet, this chamber's response is to vote on the McKeon amendment to train and arm Syrian fighters, and then leave town for seven weeks?

I have heard over and over again Republican colleagues condemning ISIL and then going on to disparage President Obama's efforts. Based on this rhetoric it appears that before this House can become fully engaged in authorizing a military campaign to defeat ISIL, campaigning against our President prior to Election Day comes first.

Yes, the mid-term election will take place on November 4th and many of us are on the ballot. But until then, we have an obligation to do our jobs which in this case is a matter of committing to U.S. military operations in Iraq and Syria based on an authorization that is outdated and demands Congressional action.

I want President Obama to conduct airstrikes against ISIL—in Iraq and in Syria if need be. I want Iraqi forces trained and equipped so they are confident and competent to take the fight on the ground to remove ISIL from Iraq. I want a broad coalition of nations sharing intelligence, working to stop the flow of foreign recruits into Syria, and cutting off the financing of ISIL.

All of this should be done based on an updated authorization approved by this Congress for the use of military force against ISIL. I voted for the 2001 authorization following the attacks on September 11th and I opposed the 2002 authorization which took the U.S. into Iraq. But today more than half of the Members in this House were not in Congress for those votes. The war against ISIL is not the war against Saddam Hussein. This Congress has an obligation to define the scope, duration, and oversight of what will require a significant and long-term use of military force and resources.

With regard to the McKeon amendment, I have serious misgivings about training and arming some thousands of Syrian fighters with the belief that they will defeat ISIL while they are also intent on removing the Assad regime from power. The New York Times on September 11, 2014 (''U.S. Pins Hopes on Syrian Rebels With Loyalties All Over the Map'') said the plan to train Syrian rebels ''leaves the United States dependent on a diverse group riven by infighting, with no shared leadership and with hard-line Islamists as its most effective fighters.'' This description of the fighting force at the foundation of our anti-ISIL policy leaves me profoundly disturbed.

The Government of Germany is training and arming the Kurdish pesh merga forces in Iraq, but refused to train the Syrian forces. They are concerned that providing arms to the Syrian rebels could end up in the hands of ISIL. According to Germany's ambassador to the United States, ''We can't control the final destination of these arms.''

Secretary Hagel is aware of this danger and assured Congress yesterday that, ''We will monitor them (Syrian forces) closely to ensure that weapons do not fall into the hands of radical elements of the opposition, ISIL, the Syrian regime, or other extremist groups. There will always be risks in a program like this, but we believe the risks are justified.'' While I respect Secretary Hagel immensely, I must disagree with him. The risks in this instance are significant and out weight the prospects of success.

The McKeon amendment's concept of vetting focuses solely on ensuring that recruits are not known terrorists themselves. That is hardly a standard of conduct the U.S. should be proud of. No one should be näive about this, there is no mention of human rights or international standards of conduct because these recruits will be sent back to a war in which they will likely be committing barbarous acts of violence. And how is this in the interest of U.S. national security?

Another issue that profoundly concerns me is the porous border between Syria and Turkey in which foreign fighters and recruits are allowed to pass freely. A New York Times report on September 15, 2014 in an article entitled, ''ISIS Draws a Steady Stream of Recruits From Turkey'', highlights this serious problem.

ISIL has grown into a force of between 20,000 and 30,000 fighters according to published CIA estimates and it appears their numbers will continue to grow, far outpacing the modest numbers to be trained by agreeing to this amendment. Unless Turkey, our NATO ally, shuts off the flow of fighters and commits to preventing the stream of new recruits from crossing into Syria, ISIL will only grow stronger in numbers.

Yesterday, in testimony before a Senate committee, General Martin Dempsey said that if airstrikes were not effective against ISIL he would recommend to the President the deployment of U.S. troops on the ground. Now, as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Dempsey has an obligation to make recommendations that will allow U.S. policy goals to be achieved. In this case that means the destruction of ISIL.

We should all expect that there will be some U.S. boots on the ground in Iraq and quite possibly Syria. Special operations forces, military trainers, and spotters to direct air strikes may all be required to enter the battle field at great risk. They need our support to achieve their missions. But a full commitment of U.S. troops on the ground to directly engage ISIL is unacceptable. This fight needs to be won on the ground by Iraqis and the Arab allies who know the risk ISIL poses to the entire region.

There is no reason why Congress cannot work with the administration, military leaders, and intelligence experts over the coming weeks to develop and approve the necessary authorization for the use of military force to demonstrate to the American people that we are united in this fight against ISIL and there are clear limits to our engagement in Iraq and Syria.

I want our Commander-in-Chief to have Congress' full support for a strategy to destroy ISIL, but I will not write a blank check to any president. Unfortunately, this amendment and the decision by Republican leadership to prioritize campaigning for re-election rather than passing a clear authorization to take the fight to ISIL should give the American people great concern about the priorities of this Congress.

Right now millions of people in Iraq and Syria are living under the oppressive, violent rule of ISIL. It is in our national interest to join the fight to stop their reign of terror. But we need real, credible allies with military forces willing to take on the fight, the fight on the ground. This amendment does not require a commitment by any other allied nations, only desperate Syrians and U.S. taxpayers. That is not enough to earn my support.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I will cast my vote to approve the President's funding request to support the training and equipping of moderate Syrian opposition forces. I do so after long consideration, and mindful of the difficulties of vetting such a force during the middle of a brutal civil war.

Any decision to supply arms to combatants must be weighed carefully; indeed, for the last several years I have opposed arming the Syrian rebels out of a concern for our ability to properly vet such troops and the fear that weapons we provide may end up in the wrong

hands. Those concerns persist, but they have been overcome by the growing menace of ISIL and the willingness of our regional allies to play a greater—and open—role in the support of these forces.

ISIL now controls about a third of Iraq and a like portion of Syria. It has been unsurpassed in its brutality, committing mass executions, forced conversions, trafficking in women and beheading its hostages—including Americans James Foley and Steven Sotlof. If ISIL is allowed to consolidate its territorial gains, or expand them, it will be able to act on its stated intention of serving as the platform for attacks on the United States. The thousands of foreign fighters, including Americans, who have flocked to join its ranks will one day attempt to return to the west and attack us on the homeland. The longer ISIL can draw new recruits, the longer the United States will have to confront the threat that these fighters will return home, many with visa-free travel to our shores.

Our response must be proportionate to the threat. It does not justify American occupation of Iraq or Syria, or the introduction of American ground forces—all of which are likely to be counterproductive. It does justify the use of American air power, intelligence, financial, diplomatic and military support. And since air power alone will not be sufficient on the battlefield, it will necessitate the assistance of local ground forces. In the case of Iraq, those ground forces will be provided by the Iraqi military and Kurdish Peshmerga. In Syria, with rigorous vetting, training and support, the rebel opposition may provide the raw material for a credible military force. There is no guarantee that the Syrian opposition can form a cohesive fighting force, something that has thus far eluded them, but the open support of Gulf nations in housing and funding this opposition holds the promise of consolidating regional support behind them.

The threat posed by ISIL is an outgrowth of the disastrously sectarian policies of the Nouri al-Maliki regime in Baghdad and the ruthless dictatorship of the Bashar al-Asad in Damascus. Our military efforts and those of our allies alone cannot succeed without addressing the political fractures created by both. I applaud the Administration for its role in urging the Iraqis to form a new and more inclusive government and look forward to the day when a representative government can take shape in neighboring Syria and this carnage can come to an end.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the McKeon Amendment to H.J. Res. 124. This is a difficult decision because there are no good options for American intervention in Iraq and Syria. However, ISIL is a barbaric group that poses a direct threat to our national interests and it is our obligation to respond in an appropriate fashion to this new threat. I believe the counterterrorism strategy laid out by President Obama represents the best way to combat ISIL without committing our country to another costly, deadly ground war in the Middle East.

This amendment is not a declaration of war, or an authorization for the use of military force. Rather, it is a limited effort to train and equip members of the moderate Syrian opposition who have been vetted by our government. I am confident that the limitations and the reporting requirements in the resolution will ensure sufficient oversight, ensuring the mission does not expand beyond congressional intent.

Americans are weary of war. Any efforts to expand our role in this conflict should be openly debated in Congress. Yet, we cannot turn our back on the threat ISIL poses to our allies in the region, and the humanitarian catastrophe they helped create. I will be closely watching this mission as it unfolds to ensure it remains limited in scope and in line with our national interest.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the Amendment to H.J. Res. 124, the Continuing Resolution, that supports training and equipping the so-called Syrian Opposition.

After attending briefings on the President's proposal, I do not believe that this Amendment has a reasonable chance of achieving his goals. Worse, it could embroil America in another endless war. I hate ISIL and the other terrorist organizations that are plaguing Syria, Iraq and eventually the U.S.; the question is whether this Amendment will ''degrade and destroy'' them, to use the President's words. I do not fault President Obama's intent; I doubt this particular Amendment will work. Most obviously, it expires in 90 days, according to the very terms of the CR. And even if, under authority granted outside of this Amendment, an air strike killed ISIL's leader, it would not stop ISIL.

First, remember the budgetary context of this train-and-equip mission. Remember that military spending cuts called ''sequestration'' will last another seven years under current law. The readiness of our military is already threatened by these cuts. Necessary long-term investments in future weapons systems are being shortchanged. Until advocates of this train-and-equip mission are willing to fully fund the U.S. military and stop sequestration, they have no business adding extra responsibilities. America's credit-card hawks must not continue to hollow out our military while pursuing questionable foreign ventures.

Second, the Syrian Opposition is not like the Peshmerga. It is a number of disorganized, unreliable and shifting groups that face three hostile armies at once within Syria itself: Assad's army, ISIL, and the Al-Nusra Front. Each of these hostile armies has demonstrated the ability to conduct advanced military operations. They are years ahead of any possible effective counter-attack by the Syrian Opposition, unless they start fighting each other or Assad's entire military defects. We are not even sure that the people we train would remain loyal. Although the Amendment talks about vetting Syrian Opposition forces, it acknowledges that there will be ''green-on-blue'' violence against us. The Amendment also anticipates that some of the weapons we supply to the Opposition will be given or sold to ISIL.

Third, we are entering a series of civil wars. They are notoriously difficult to stop without years of bloodshed. The idea that U.S. Army training, guns, and bullets will facilitate a negotiated Syrian settlement is highly implausible. Another factor is the 1,400-year-old Sunni-Shia schism, giving our Muslim allies their own religious agendas. They make excuses for their failure to commit their own forces in their own backyards, even when their inaction floods their nations with refugees. Several of these nations have large militaries with advanced weaponry, which they refuse to use except for very limited, anonymous airstrikes. They want U.S. soldiers and airmen to do their dirty work.

Fourth, ISIL was created by wealthy Sunnis in nations like Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Kuwait who wanted an attack dog, a proxy army, to fight the Shia threat posed by Iran, Syria, Hamas, and Hezbollah. They got more than they bargained for: a pit bull that might turn against its masters. Nevertheless, they are not muzzling ISIL, or even yanking its leash. How does ISIL continue to get its funding? Aside from rape, pillage, kidnapping, and taxing infidels, it is known for its slick corporate appeals, even an annual report on its atrocities. Have the Sunni nations punished ISIL's benefactors, refused to purchase ISIL's oil, or taken other measures to cut off its funding? No. In the case of Saudi Arabia, they offer us unused training bases for no more than 10,000 of the Syrian Opposition. That is far from enough.

Fifth, how many times must the U.S. try to rebuild Muslim nations? We've tried for years, often just inflaming them. Syria will be the eighth Muslim nation we have tried to repair in the last three decades: Kuwait, Bosnia, Kosovo, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Yemen. In most cases, we have not succeeded. The U.S. military is ill-suited for nation-building. As General Bob Scales pointed out in the Wall Street Journal recently, the Pentagon has trouble dealing with today's asymmetric wars.

Sixth, ask yourself what your reaction will be if an American airman—God forbid—is captured and beheaded on live television. Will this Amendment, that so carefully denies authorizing military force, suddenly become the prelude to American ''boots on the ground'' as Gen. Martin Dempsey has already predicted? And who believes that our trainers and equippers—and special forces and intelligence officers—are not already ''boots on the ground''? The language of the Amendment is surreal: it contains no ''authorization for the introduction of United States Armed Forces into hostilities or into situations wherein hostilities are clearly indicated by the circumstances.'' Unless our military operates entirely outside of Syria or northern Iraq, they are in imminent danger. And if they are training in Saudi Arabia, they will be working in a nation that beheads more people for minor crimes than ISIL could dream of.

Lastly, is there a better way to degrade and destroy ISIL? Americans, with our wonderful optimism that all problems have a quick solution, have a lot to learn about the nature of the enemies we face. Unfortunately for us, our enemies do not measure action by the clock, but by the calendar. They outwait or outlast us. They use social media against us, to dare America to fight or to recruit the West's disaffected youth with dreams of martyrdom. They will laugh that this Amendment lasts only 90 days, particularly when other sections of the CR extend much longer.

America needs to understand the threats we face from radical jihadists and to fully fund effective strategies for dealing with them. Sadly, this Amendment does neither. Therefore, I oppose it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the joint resolution, as amended, and on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON).

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON).

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on adoption of the amendment will be followed by 5-minute votes on a motion to recommit, if ordered; passage of H.J. Res. 124, if ordered; and agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 273, nays 156, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 507]

YEAS—273

Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Boehner
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Clay
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeGette
Delaney
DelBene
Denham
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Farenthold
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Hinojosa
Holding
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Hultgren
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Joyce
Kaptur
Kelly (PA)
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lynch
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Messer
Mica
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neal
Noem
Nunes
Olson
Owens
Pascrell
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pittenger
Pompeo
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)

NAYS—156

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bentivolio
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Burgess
Campbell
Capps
Capuano
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Cleaver
Cooper
Cummings
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeLauro
Dent
DeSantis
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fincher
Fleming
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gosar
Gowdy
Grayson
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Heck (NV)
Himes
Holt
Honda
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Hurt
Jeffries
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Labrador
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lewis
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Matsui
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
Meadows
Meng
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller, George
Moore
Mulvaney
Nadler
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Nolan
Nugent
O'Rourke
Palazzo
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perry
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Posey
Price (GA)
Rangel
Ribble
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Rothfus
Rush
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Speier
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Weber (TX)
Welch
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wolf
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—3

Barton
DesJarlais
Nunnelee

□ 1707

Mr. RANGEL changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. STIVERS, CONYERS, and HINOJOSA changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the joint resolution?

Mrs. BUSTOS. I am opposed to it in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mrs. Bustos moves to recommit the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 21, lines 4 and 5, strike "June 30, 2015" and insert "September 30, 2021".

At the end of the joint resolution (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. (a) The provisions of the following bills of the 113th Congress are hereby enacted into law:

(1) H.R. 377, as introduced in the House of Representatives on January 23, 2013 (the Paycheck Fairness Act).

(2) H.R. 1010, as introduced in the House of Representatives on March 6, 2013 (the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013).

(3) H.R. 4582, as introduced in the House of Representatives on May 6, 2014, except sections 3 and 4 of such bill (the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act).

(b) The provisions of an Act enacted in subsection (a) shall be effective, notwithstanding any other provision of such Act, as of the date of the enactment of this joint resolution.

(c) The provisions of an Act enacted in subsection (a) shall have no force or effect after December 11, 2014, and, effective after such date, the provisions of law amended by such Act shall be restored as if such Act had not been enacted.

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this joint resolution may be used to enter into any contract with an incorporated entity if such entity's sealed bid or competitive proposal shows that such entity is incorporated or chartered in Bermuda or the Cayman Islands, and such entity's sealed bid or competitive proposal shows that such entity was previously incorporated in the United States.

Mrs. BUSTOS (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading, please.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill. It will not delay or kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will proceed immediately to final passage, as amended.

This amendment reinforces our commitment to the middle class and making sure that jobs are created right here in America, not overseas, by taking five key steps.

First, it would extend the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank for 7

years. Illinois companies like John Deere and Caterpillar, as well as large and small businesses across our country, deserve the certainty that a long-term reauthorization would provide.

Second, it would help ensure that employers provide equal pay for equal work. Equal pay is not simply a women's issue. It is an issue for all in the middle class. With households being led by women, equal pay will help those families get further ahead. Boosting women's earnings also will increase the purchasing power of families and will help our economy.

Third, my amendment will make the minimum wage a living wage. The cost of living has skyrocketed in recent years, but wages have remained stagnant. Working full time, year round at Illinois' $8.25 minimum wage will earn a worker only $16,500 per year, a salary that is below the Federal poverty line.

Raising the minimum wage would not only lift many families out of poverty, but it would also increase the earning power of households across the country, leading to an increase in overall economic activity.

Fourth, my amendment would allow students with outstanding student loan debt to refinance their loans at the lower interest rates that are currently offered to borrowers. Student loan debt not only harms young people and prevents them from reaching their personal financial potential, such as purchasing a home and starting a family, but it is deadweight, pulling down our entire economy and preventing economic growth.

Fifth, and finally, my amendment would prevent government contracts from going to companies that have moved their operations overseas. The government should not be giving taxpayer dollars to companies that ship jobs overseas and take advantage of corporate inversions to avoid paying their fair share.

These five commonsense elements would strengthen the middle class and help create jobs right here in America. Too many families are struggling, and enough is enough. For too long, lawmakers have been looking out for themselves instead of looking out for the middle class.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky is recognized for 5 minutes in opposition to the motion to recommit.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, this is a clean, straightforward continuing resolution that has bipartisan and bicameral support. It is our best, most clear path forward to keep the lights on in our Federal Government before the fiscal year ends.

The American people rely on the Federal Government to provide certain vital programs and services, and they expect the Congress to come together to ensure these programs continue.

Now, I would prefer to be standing here, presenting a bill that finalizes the hard work of this body to fund the entire government for the entire fiscal year. Unfortunately, the other body has refused to live up to their end of the equation.

They have yet to pass or even consider a single appropriations bill through their Chamber. Because the Senate leaves us with no alternative, we must replace politics with responsibility and pass the CR before us.

□ 1715

This motion to recommit only increases the possibility of a government shutdown, ignoring the tireless efforts of Members on both sides of the aisle to keep that from happening.

The motion to recommit would also put our national security at stake. With the addition of the McKeon amendment, this bill now provides authority to train and equip Syrian rebels to help degrade and destroy the terrorist organization ISIL.

Sadly, the minority is trying to hijack the process at the eleventh hour. They have reached deep into their grab bag of partisan agenda items in an attempt to attach, without fair consideration, sweeping policy changes that could place undue burdens on our economy, an effort that is designed to do nothing but score political points.

Funding our government and defeating ISIL are of grave national importance, and they are too important to risk over political maneuvers like this motion.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Members to vote ''no'' on the motion and ''yes'' on final. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 199, noes 228, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 508]

AYES—199

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—228

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo

Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—4

Barton
DesJarlais
Nunnelee
Woodall

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1723

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 319, noes 108, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 509]

AYES—319

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chaffetz
Chu
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeGette
Delaney
DelBene
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doyle
Duffy
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Marino
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McCollum
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Noem
Nolan
Nunes
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—108

Amash
Bachmann
Bentivolio
Blackburn
Bridenstine
Broun (GA)
Capuano
Chabot
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Cooper
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeLauro
DeSantis
Doggett
Duckworth
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Fincher
Fleming
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Fudge
Gabbard
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibson
Gohmert
Gosar
Gowdy
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Holt
Huelskamp
Huffman
Hurt
Jeffries
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kennedy
Labrador
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lewis
Lowenthal
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Massie
Matheson
McClintock
McDermott
McGovern
Meadows
Meng
Michaud
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mulvaney
Nadler
Neugebauer
Nugent
O'Rourke
Pallone
Payne
Perry
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Posey
Rangel
Ribble
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Rothfus
Salmon
Sanford
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Slaughter
Speier
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Tsongas
Velázquez
Weber (TX)
Welch
Westmoreland
Williams
Wittman
Yoho

NOT VOTING—4

Barton
DesJarlais
McCarthy (NY)
Nunnelee

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1731

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted on rollcall 509, H.J. Res. 124. I intended to vote "yes" on rollcall 509, H.J. Res. 124.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO COMMIT, THREATEN TO COMMIT, OR SUPPORT TERRORISM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113–155)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2014.

The crisis constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, in New York and Pennsylvania and against the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 23, 2001, has not been resolved. These actions continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13224 with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 17, 2014*.

CONSTITUTION DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Constitution Day, which is celebrated today, September 17. On this day, we commemorate the day our Framers, 39 delegates from 12 States, signed our Nation's charter at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1787.

Mr. Speaker, the Constitution is more than just a document; it is the enduring structure of our Nation's government. It is a distinctive system of checks and balances, separation of powers, and protection of freedoms that has defined and guided our Nation since its founding.

Today we reiterate the values of freedom, justice, and opportunity that have provided America with generations of prosperity. Today we honor the Framers of our Constitution and the principles they put forth more than 227 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, the future of our Nation is strong if we continue to hold these principles dear.

Happy Constitution Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 15, 2014, I was unavoidably detained attending representational activities and thus unable to return in time for rollcall vote No. 497.

I would like the record to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on rollcall vote No. 497, H.R. 5108, to establish the Law School Clinic Certification Program of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes.

RETIREMENT OF JUDGE MICHAEL NASH

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the retirement of an incredible man and a dear friend, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael Nash.

As presiding judge of the juvenile court for more than 16 years, a total of 29 years on the bench, his retirement is a huge loss for the community and for the Los Angeles judicial system.

During his tenure, he brought numerous changes to the juvenile court: the creation of a drug court in both delinquency and dependency courts, the development of protocols to foster communication and coordination between the courts, and simple changes such as lowering the judge's bench so that children in his court could better participate in the proceedings.

While I know Judge Nash will always continue to be a champion for children and families, I want to thank him for his distinguished career and congratulate him on his well-earned retirement.

CONSTITUTION DAY

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, today we commemorate the 227th birthday of the Constitutional Convention and the creation of America's most cherished document—our Constitution. Today is Constitution Day.

On September 17, 1787, our Founding Fathers, 39 brave Americans, created a document that to this day is the foundation of our country and is admired by people around the world.

The British statesman William Gladstone said of our Constitution:

> The American Constitution is, so far as I can see, the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man.

I wholeheartedly agree with this statement. The Framers established a new form of government that for the first time respected the rights of the individual. No longer would a king or dictator rule over their citizens. The power of the government would derive from the consent of the governed.

Responsibility of good governance is not just placed on the political leaders but on the participation of those citizens who have voted for them. Benjamin Franklin, when asked outside of Independence Hall by a curious woman as to what sort of government was created:

> A republic, ma'am, if you dare keep it.

PREVENTING THE EPIDEMIC OF SUICIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time for our Nation to raise awareness about the persistent scourge of suicide.

Tens of thousands of Americans die each year purposefully by their own actions. They are our neighbors and our friends, our sons and our daughters, and too often they are the men and women who have served our country honorably in the United States military. An estimated 22 veterans commit suicide every day in our country. That is one life lost every 65 minutes.

One year ago, we came together in this Chamber during a special bipartisan order to send a clear message that this epidemic of veteran suicide must end. Now, 1 year later, the fight isn't over and more work needs to be done.

Tonight we demonstrate our ongoing support for the individuals, organizations, and agencies devoted to preventing the epidemic of veteran suicide, and we challenge the VA, the Department of Defense, and our fellow lawmakers to do more. We are failing in our obligation to do right by those who have served so honorably.

Finally, we send a message to military families who have experienced this tragedy: Your family's loss is not forgotten. We will work to stop this epidemic. We work for the memory of your loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend and colleague from Florida, Representative YOHO.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a quick moment again to thank my colleague, Representative SINEMA, for the invitation to speak today on the very important issue of veteran suicide prevention. She has been a true champion of improving access to quality care for our Nation's veterans and has been a leader in Congress pushing for the real reforms to combat veteran suicide.

By shining a light on veteran suicide rates of approximately 22 per day, we as a nation can start to understand the urgency with which we need to solve and prevent this epidemic that our veterans, their families, and their friends struggle with daily. Not coping with the stress and anxiety early enough all too often leads to the veterans taking their own life.

I want to be clear: this is not an issue that affects veterans alone; it affects all of us.

Our government asked these soldiers to place themselves in harm's way, and if when a veteran returns home they are struggling to cope, we as a nation must come together to ensure a strong support system is in place. This means we must remove the stigma associated with seeking help. This means we must hire more mental health professionals and more who have served in combat zones themselves. This means the VA must provide after-hours services. The VA must review its group therapy model. There must be a review of discharges that resulted from mental health conditions, and the Department of Defense and VA must better coordinate the transition from DOD care to VA care.

□ 1745

I have spoken with veterans throughout my district and a common theme that emerges is that they have lost faith in the VA. They feel abandoned by the very system, the very country which they fought for to preserve and to protect the liberties and freedoms we have the privileges of experiencing daily.

I had a young man send me a letter directly to my house, and I want to share some of it. He said he had been seeking care. He had served in the gulf war. He was in his mid-forties, and he had been seeking care over the course of the last 10 years. Time and time again his appointments had either been canceled or rescheduled, and he had gotten to a point where he tried to get care and over the last 13 appointments they were canceled or rescheduled. He ended the letter pleading for help, and he said that if I do not get the help and care that I need, because I have nowhere else to turn, that I am afraid I am either going to hurt somebody or myself.

We reached out to this young man, we had him come into our office, and I could see a troubled individual that had given up on life and had no hope for the future. We intervened for this young man, we called the VA system, and they got him in that night. Since then, I am happy to report that the man has called us and said it was a life-changing experience for him and he could only imagine what would have happened had he not gotten interdiction.

Congress and the VA are working to solve these deficiencies so that our soldiers have the care they need. But it should not take an act of Congress, or a Congressman or -women, to intercede on behalf of a veteran to get the care they earned, need, and deserve. I know myself and my colleagues will do what is needed to fix the shortcomings of the DOD and the VA system.

America and Americans cannot sit idly by and bear witness to the path of devastation and destruction left in the wake of a veteran suicide for their family and friends to deal with.

I thank my colleague for bringing this very important subject to light. We all need to work in a bipartisan fashion to solve this. I thank my colleague.

Ms. SINEMA. Thank you, Representative YOHO, for your leadership and, in particular, thank you for sharing the story of a veteran that your office helped.

We hear countless stories from Members of Congress in this very body of veterans who reach out to our offices, sometime as a last resort as they are facing or contemplating suicide. I am proud to say that many Members of this body have done what it has taken to help those individuals recover and stay in touch.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to turn the time over to my colleague from Arizona, Mr. RON BARBER, for his remarks.

Mr. BARBER. Thank you, Congresswoman, and thank you for bringing us together this evening on this important topic.

I represent 85,000 veterans in my district, one of the largest communities of veterans in the country. My father was a veteran of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He would be appalled if he were alive today to see what has been happening at the Veterans Affairs Department in our State and in other parts of the country. I am really proud that this Congress has taken action to address those concerns to give the Secretary the authority he needs to address those concerns.

Mr. Speaker, nearly a decade and a half of brutal conflict overseas has taken its toll on our men and women who serve in the Armed Forces. I was in Afghanistan about 3 months ago, and I saw the conditions under which our military operates. The stress is immense. Everywhere you go there is a threat. Extended deployments and multiple deployments have taken their toll on people we have sent to protect our country and to fight the battles we asked them to fight.

It is estimated that perhaps as many as 500,000 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan will return home, when all is said and done, with serious wounds, the wounds that are signature wounds of these conflicts: posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

Military service creates a culture that demands that our soldiers are tough, and the culture can also prevent many of our servicemembers from seeking the help they need. As a result, they are left to face the ghosts of war alone.

The suicide rate among our country's brave servicemen and -women and veterans is at a frightening level. Some estimates have shown that as many as 22 veterans take their own lives every day.

We must combat military and veteran suicide with the same conviction that we take on the enemy of war because it is killing our men and women in and out of uniform. We must wage a well-funded, well-planned campaign to fight this heartbreaking epidemic.

I have been pushing for better access to health care for our veterans since I came to Congress almost 2½ years ago.

One of the first bills I introduced was the Veterans Health Access Act to ensure that veterans could get the mental health care that they needed in communities without having to endure long commutes and even longer wait times at VA facilities.

Government dysfunction cannot be the enemy of our servicemen and veterans. We must do more to cut the red tape that has kept our veterans from top quality mental health care. I am pleased that the VA bill that we passed allows the VA to contract out for services close to where the veteran lives. This is essential, particularly for treatment of mental health issues.

Mr. Speaker, we must do more for those who have borne the brunt of war. We must come together—Congress, the administration, the health care community, mental health experts—to build upon a plan that will help our veterans who have served this Nation so courageously and yet may still be suffering.

Again, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Arizona for bringing this to the House floor this evening. I stand ready to work with her and all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do what we can for our veterans, not only in Arizona, but nationwide.

Ms. SINEMA. Thank you, Mr. BARBER, for your commitment to supporting veterans in Arizona.

Last year, I shared with you the story of a young veteran in my district, Sergeant Daniel Somers. Sergeant Somers was an Army veteran of two tours in Iraq. Diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury and PTSD, Sergeant Somers ultimately took his own

life after struggling with the VA bureaucracy and not getting the help he needed in time.

Together with the Somers family, we have worked to prevent veteran suicide and improve much-needed access to mental health care for our veterans.

We have recently developed the Classified Veterans Access to Care Act to ensure that all veterans, including those with classified experiences, get immediate access to mental health services in the appropriate care setting.

The House Veterans' Affairs Committee included this legislation in a larger veterans package, and we expect it to be on the floor before the end of the year.

While this is an important step in supporting our veterans, we have much more work to do.

I would like to take a moment to yield the floor to the gentleman from California, Representative LAMALFA, my friend and colleague.

Mr. LAMALFA. Thank you. I appreciate my colleague from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) for your efforts on this.

When you become a Member of the House of Representatives and you start receiving those calls from veterans in your district on the difficulty they have with what they thought they were promised by their government when they enlisted, when they went into the military, it really, really hits home. It really affects your heart to see these veterans who have struggled to at least be heard for their claims, for their health care, by the VA, by the treatment centers.

We have to do better than that. To see the suicide rate among veterans the way it is, to know that they felt like the government has turned their backs on them, is appalling. We have to give them the hope.

My office, I know my colleagues that have spoken here tonight, have turned towards helping as much as they can. So my message, just a brief message, for our veterans out there: Do not give up. Know that we are trying to reform the VA system, trying to reform through the measures that have been brought up the way the VA treats and gets the help for veterans who have served us.

They made a promise to us. We need to keep the promise to them. For them to go feeling hopeless and that nobody cares about them, that they can't get treatment, is one of the biggest shames we could have as a country. We have asked them to do a lot. We will continue to do so in the future. We need to be prepared to take care of them properly, if they need it, when they come home.

I appreciate, again, you having this time here tonight, Ms. SINEMA, here in the House to put a spotlight on this as you have. What I have tried to do in my office and the hard work by my own staff is to have our veterans be treated respectfully but also feel hopeful that someone hears their message, hears their plea, and then will address their needs timely and respectfully. They should not be homeless, they should not feel to the point of hopelessness that suicide is an alternative for them.

Thank you, Ms. SINEMA.

Ms. SINEMA. Thank you, Representative LAMALFA, for your commitment to veterans. Your comment and your message to veterans of don't give up is one that I think we must all repeat every day, not just in words, but in our actions as Members of Congress to continue to reform the VA system and send a clear message to veterans that we won't give up either in reforming the system and taking care of them.

Earlier this evening, I shared the story of Sergeant Daniel Somers. The VA failed Sergeant Somers. We have since learned that the VA has failed thousands of other veterans through gross mismanagement and delays in access to care.

Veterans at the Phoenix VA and VA facilities across the country were placed on secret lists and had to wait months before seeing a doctor.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General's final report on the Phoenix VA Health Care System, which was released last month, confirms that the Phoenix VA, housed in my district, left 3,500 veterans at risk of never receiving care. Additionally, 1,400 veterans on the official electronic waiting list were left waiting for unacceptably long periods of care. At least 20 veterans who failed to receive timely or appropriate care passed away.

Mr. Speaker, this is immoral, un-American, and it puts our veterans at risk. But in Arizona, we are not idly waiting for Washington to take action, we are taking action ourselves.

In Phoenix, we have established a working group of community providers, veterans service organizations, and the local VA to work together to improve access to services. We also recently cohosted our first Veterans First Clinic, which brought together community providers, the Phoenix VA, and over 20 veteran-serving organizations to help veterans in a variety of ways. Approximately 400 veterans and their families attended and got the care that they earned and that they deserve.

These are examples of the good that results when we set aside partisanship and focus instead on putting veterans first to help meet their needs.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share a story from my district. Last month, a local veteran, Peter, came to our district office. He came to ask for help with his claims and for help navigating the VA.

After meeting with my social work staff for 2 hours, Peter told one of my caseworkers that he had thoughts of suicide and he had the ability to carry out those thoughts. In fact, he said, the only thing keeping him from doing so was his daughters.

Our office met with Peter for an additional 2 hours, listening to him share his feelings and focusing on solutions and next steps. We shared with him our veterans resource guide, which let him know about available community programs and organizations dedicated to supporting veterans with services that range from mental health treatment to financial assistance.

Peter told us he had no idea there were so many organizations that support local veterans, and he left our office that day feeling better than when he had arrived.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke with him personally just a few days later. He told me he had never heard of an office that would respond and care about his suicidal ideation, his depression, and his needs. I am grateful that Peter came to our office. I am even more grateful that we were able to help him.

Since meeting with Peter and other veterans in our district, we have released a veterans resource guide for the Ninth Congressional District in Arizona, a comprehensive 27-page document that provides local veterans with detailed information about community resources that are available to them. We hope that this resource guide will be replicated in districts across the country.

□ 1800

Mr. Speaker, the issue of veteran suicide and the systemic problems in the VA system require a substantial local and national effort. My colleagues here today believe, as I believe, that no one who comes home after serving our country should ever feel like he or she has nowhere to turn.

In response to the VA crisis, Congress recently passed and the President signed into law the Veterans Access to Care Through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act. This legislation makes needed reforms to the VA health care system and will ensure that Arizona veterans get access to the care that they have earned.

The Veterans Access to Care Through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act builds on our work to address the crisis in Phoenix by allowing veterans who have been waiting for medical care for more than 30 days to receive care from non-VA doctors.

It authorizes the VA to fire senior managers who knew about these cover-ups across the country. It reviews scheduling systems and technology so that fewer veterans slip through the cracks when seeking care.

It provides resources for more physicians and medical staff to work in VA hospitals around the country; also, it creates an independent commission to investigate the Veterans Administration to find out what went wrong and evaluate access to care throughout the VA health care system.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation was an important step forward, but more action is required. The first step is speedy and effective implementation of this important bill. I urge the VA and agencies locally who are working with

the VA to speed the implementation of this important legislation and show a change of culture at the VA. We all believe that veterans deserve the best possible care.

Carl McLaughlin, a 38-year-old Army veteran, committed suicide on December 19, 2013. He had been stationed in Bosnia, and he was released from the Army on a medical discharge in 2004.

Starting in 2006, Carl was treated at the Phoenix VA, but, as time went on, it became increasingly difficult for Carl to see his doctor. According to Carl's mother, Terry, at the time of his death, Carl was waiting to hear back from the Phoenix VA to have his medications adjusted and to see his doctor.

Carl suffered from recurring pain caused by shoulder injury, severe hearing loss, depression, and posttraumatic stress disorder. His depression worsened over time.

Terry, Carl's mom, told us:

> The last time I saw Carl was a few days before his death. He looked really depressed, and I asked him if he had a doctor's appointment scheduled because I know he had been waiting over 4 weeks for a call back from the doctor's office. He said, no, he was still waiting.
>
> He called them the next day, six times, and left three messages. He was put on hold and hung up on the other three times. This problem of calling and being hung up on and not getting calls back had been going on for over 1 to 2 years.

Terry asked us to share her son's story in the hope that his tragedy doesn't happen to another family.

Recently, I cosponsored legislation called the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act. This bill reviews mental health staffing requirements and increases the ability of the VA to recruit and train psychiatrists. Congress should pass this legislation this year to make it easy for veterans like Carl to see a behavioral health specialist.

Mr. Speaker and Members, I want to thank my colleagues who joined me this evening. Our thoughts are with the families who have lost a loved one. Each of us can do something to raise awareness, to be that light for a struggling veteran in our community.

Businesses can display signs to let veterans know that help is always available to them. Mental health professionals can volunteer with organizations like Give an Hour to provide free counseling to veterans, their family members, and active duty members and their families.

We can all learn to recognize the signs of crisis by visiting veteranscrisisline.net and then reaching out to the veterans in our lives.

Here in Congress, we can do more. We need a VA that provides real and meaningful help to veterans in need and that puts veterans first and works aggressively with community providers to improve the quality and accessibility of care. We need a VA that is transparent and open to restore the trust and credibility it has lost.

We who enjoy our freedom every day, thanks to the sacrifices of our military servicemembers, must all step up to end the epidemic of veteran suicide.

I yield back the balance of my time.

LET'S END VETERAN SUICIDE

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, few things we do here are more important than taking care of the men and women who have fought to protect our Nation. Doing something about the issue of suicide is incredibly important.

Not so very long ago, I had the opportunity to talk to a person that I had known for a very long time who I had met while serving in the legislature and who told me that his son, who was a veteran, had come back and was doing fine; yet, one day, he got the phone call that his son had committed suicide. No family should go through that.

Here in the Congress, we have an opportunity to do something about that. It is my hope that Congress, working in a bipartisan fashion, can work together to do something about this problem and to take better care across the board of the men and women who have fought every day, day in and day out, to serve our country.

ISLAMIC JIHAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I expect that, shortly, a colleague will be here that I will hand off to for a few minutes to deal with several housekeeping issues, but, for the moment that I have, I want to focus on an issue that has gained the attention—as well it should—of the American people.

The number one duty of government, Mr. Speaker, is to secure the safety and the security of the American people. That is why we have a government. That is why we exist. It is the reason why countries enjoy sovereignty and declare themselves sovereign nations.

That means they are a separate political unit, and they exist for the purpose of preserving the safety and security of their people. That is our duty, and that is our government.

It seems, Mr. Speaker, throughout each generation that somehow, some way, there is a force that comes against a nation. In different eras, we have had different foes that the United States has had to contend with, beginning at our founding, when the United States of America, through our Declaration of Independence and through our Constitution, on this, our Constitution Day—and, by the way, we say happy Constitution Day to all Americans. We are very proud of our United States Constitution.

Contained within the Constitution is the admonition to the President, to the Congress, to the Supreme Court, again, to ensure that, in our founding document, we understand that it is the duty of the government to secure the safety and the security of the American people.

What led up to the writing of the Declaration of Independence and to the American Revolution and, ultimately, to America's founding document with the United States Constitution was a reaction of the colonists against a great totalitarian oppression that was coming against the United States. That was from the British motherland of which the United States was a colony of.

We pushed back against that oppression for many and sundry reasons, some of which were taxation, others were the taking away the rights of American citizens, whether it was forcing American citizens to take soldiers into their homes or taking away their rights as free men under the Magna Carta.

The American people rose up, and they said, ''We want to have freedom.'' They threw off the chains of the totalitarianism of the day, the British Empire.

Going further into the future with the War of 1812, again, the United States was pushed into a conflict with the British, and, again, we had to throw off that enemy. Again, we saw our own house come apart in the time of the Civil War. There was also the Spanish-American War.

The United States was engaged in a great totalitarianism in 1917 with World War I and, again, in World War II. There was a conflict in the totalitarianism of our day. It was an evil known as Communism, both from the Soviet threat and also from Nazism.

The United States came together as a Nation. We threw off the yoke of the oppressor, of the totalitarianism of our day—in other words, a regime that had an idea that it wanted to conquer the world with its evil and immoral philosophy, whether it was Communism or whether it was Nazism.

It seems, Mr. Speaker, that every generation is confronted by a great evil, and the moral questions of the day are related to that evil. The evil, Mr. Speaker, that we are dealing with today is something known as Islamic jihad.

Its face is ugly. Its face has reared not only just in recent decades and just the last few months of this summer, but Islamic jihad is something that has been around as long as the inception of Islam itself.

The regime of jihad has been defeated, summarily, time and time again throughout history, but it was defeated through military might, it wasn't defeated through diplomacy, and defeated it was.

It was defeated at Tours; it was defeated at the battle of the gates of Vienna; it was defeated again with the

collapse of the Ottoman Empire in the 1920s; but it was defeated militarily. It was an idea that had grisly consequences. Those consequences were ones that led to bloodshed and suffering and misery for thousands of people across the world. Today is no different.

Today, we see the same level of bloodshed across the world. That bloodshed is coming to us, again, at the tip of the sword. This summer, it is known as the Islamic State. Some people know it as ISIS. Some people know it by the name ISIL. The President uses the term ''ISIL.''

This organization is just a continuation of al Qaeda—and a continuation of something even greater than al Qaeda—and that is the concept known as Islamic jihad.

Baghdadi, the head of the Islamic State, initially called them ISIS, which means the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham, or Syria.

□ 1815

That was the territory that Baghdadi was seeking to conquer. He did, in fact, conquer much of that territory.

Then he changed the name of his organization to ISIL, the Islamic State in the Levant. The Levant is a geographical area that is greater than Syria and Iraq. It would comprise much of eastern Turkey, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, and so forth, the greater area, if you will, of the central Mediterranean area.

After that, the Islamic State issued yet another press release with yet another name change. And in the course of that name change, the Islamic State decided to drop the IS and the IL, and now they are known simply as the Islamic State.

That is because the ambitions, Mr. Speaker, of Baghdadi and the Islamic State are far grander than just Iraq or just Syria or just eastern Turkey or Israel or Lebanon or Jordan or Gaza—far bigger.

The Islamic State, you see, Mr. Speaker, encompasses the entire globe, the planet Earth. Every part of this Earth, you see, Mr. Speaker, is what is intended. It is the ultimate in totalitarianism—what the Communists planned for, which was for control of the world under the umbrella of communism, and saw themselves ultimately defeated militarily; and again, what the Nazis saw, Mr. Speaker, as control of the world, national socialism through the Nazi Party movement and, ultimately, were defeated militarily.

So too, Mr. Speaker, the Islamic State sees their evil, violent, cruel, bloody philosophy also would encompass the Earth. That would include the United States of America. That would include, obviously, our great ally Israel. It would encompass all of North America. It would also cover the Asian nations. The entire world now, Mr. Speaker, is at threat from this totalitarianism.

And often it is said, never despise small beginnings. It is breathtaking, Mr. Speaker, what we have seen accomplished by the Islamic State. The leader, again, is a man named Baghdadi.

Baghdadi was a part of the franchise known as al Qaeda in Iraq. Al Qaeda began—we know about Osama bin Laden. Well, an affiliate of Osama bin Laden was the man named Baghdadi, who is the current head of the Islamic State.

Baghdadi, when he was a part of the franchise, al Qaeda in Iraq, was number three. We were able to target and kill number one and number two in the power structure in Iraq. That left Baghdadi as the next in command.

Baghdadi decided not only did he want to be the leader of al Qaeda in Iraq, he wanted so much more. But, you see, Baghdadi was waylaid for a period of time in his life. Why? Because Baghdadi was captured by the United States. He was found to be a terrorist. He was held in detention in Camp Baka in Iraq.

So we had him, the leader of the Islamic State, the organization responsible for the beheadings of Americans, the American photojournalist James Foley and the American photojournalist James Sotloff and, this Saturday, the beheading of another British journalist. Baghdadi is responsible for all of that and so much more.

Baghdadi was responsible for ordering the murdering of literally hundreds and thousands of individuals in Iraq. We saw Baghdadi line up hundreds of soldiers in Iraq, Iraqi soldiers, and they were brutally and mercilessly murdered, being shot in the back.

We also saw additional beheadings occur, and we saw also as they chased the Yazidis up Mount Sinjar. We also heard the horrific tales of how the merciless Islamic State literally stooped so low that they buried alive women and children in graves in August.

Mr. Speaker, I despise being as graphic as I am, but we must be face-to-face with the facts that we are facing. This is an evil regime. It is an evil philosophy with an evil goal. They are as equally committed to killing Jews as they are committed to killing Christians as they are committed to killing any Muslim who doesn't agree with their sick, failed philosophy.

The other thing we need to recognize, Mr. Speaker, is that this has a religious motivation, not because I say so, but because Baghdadi and the terrorists of the Islamic State say so. Their motivation is their religion. They say it is Islam that drives them to do what they are doing.

That is why it is perplexing, Mr. Speaker, that a week ago the President of the United States said in a televised address that Islam has nothing to do with the Islamic State. He said there are two fallacies of the Islamic State. Number one, he said, it is not Islam.

Well, Mr. President, you may not think it is Islam, but ask the leaders of Islamic jihad what they think it is. They say forthrightly and boldly, with everything that is within them, that their motivation for beheading individuals, for burying women and children alive, for establishing a global power to enforce their sick, religious ideas upon the world is based upon their religion of Islam.

That is their reasoning, Mr. Speaker, out of their mouths. And I believe that it is prudent and wise to listen to the enemy, to find out what their motivations are.

We look no further than the mad, evil, maniacal leader of the Nazi Party, as he was rising in the 1930s, when he wrote his book called ''Mein Kampf.'' In his book, ''Mein Kampf,'' he wrote his detailed plan. You see, he wasn't being secret, Mr. Speaker, about the evil that he wanted to bring against the Jewish people. He was very forthright. The same can be said, Mr. Speaker, of Baghdadi, who is the head of the evil regime and ideology known as the Islamic State. Baghdadi.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, this is what the leader of the Islamic State had to say. This is in January, and he said this to the United States, and I quote. In a speech in January of this year, Baghdadi said to the United States: ''Soon we will be in direct confrontation. So watch out for us for we are with you, watching.''

I repeat: ''Soon we will be in direct confrontation,'' meaning with the United States. ''So watch out for us for we are with you, watching.''

That tells me, Mr. Speaker, that Baghdadi and the Islamic State don't intend to confine their bloodletting just in Iraq and Syria or in Jordan or Lebanon. Their designs are for the United States as well.

We have been told and we have read that there is an enormous amount of so-called chatter through the social media by members of the Islamic State and those who promote Islamic jihad to enter into the United States and to bring about atrocities here within the confines of our American sovereign soil.

You see, our sovereign soil has been invaded. Our sovereign soil was invaded at Benghazi. Our U.S. consulate in Benghazi when Ambassador Chris Stevens lost his life was U.S. soil. Islamic jihadists entered our sovereign soil and killed our U.S. Ambassador on that sovereign soil.

Just within a month or so ago, Islamic jihadists again took over the airport in Baghdad, and again we saw an embassy in Libya, in Tripoli, abandoned. So United States personnel were forced to flee the United States Embassy in Tripoli and leave and gain escape through Tunisia.

It is really quite sobering when you think of the advances of Islamic jihad in the region. And that is why I don't understand, Mr. Speaker, I don't understand the thinking of the President when it is coming against this evil. I don't understand it because, you see, the Islamic State has not only declared their intention, they have declared that they are at war with the United

States. They have declared they are at war. They have declared that they are a caliphate. They are a government. They are an Islamic government.

They have a leader in Baghdadi. They have already conquered territory, about half of Iraq, about half of Syria, which they control, also other parts of the Middle East as well. They also control parts of northern Lebanon.

They have made absolutely breathtaking strides in their short tenure of advancement. So they have land. They have a name. They have a leader. They have a government. It is known as shari'a law. That is Islamic law. That is their law of the land.

They also have an administration. They have a Shura Council, and they have an administration. They already have a line of hierarchy and an organizational flowchart of how they are going to run the Islamic State.

They have an army. Twelve thousand, presumably, are in the Islamic State Army, and brutal they are—beheadings, women raped, men beheaded, innocent children shot in the head. It is absolutely devastating.

We see Christians have been chased out of the Middle East region. The numbers are so dramatic, Mr. Speaker, of Christians that have had to flee Iraq, Christians in Mosul that have lived safely there. The ancient town of Nineveh, which Jonah went to preach in Nineveh, and that town is Mosul, Christians have been in Mosul since the time of Christ, 2,000 years. Mosul no longer has Christians. They were chased out of that city.

The Christians have been chased repeatedly out of Iraq. They are being chased out of the Baghdad area. They have been chased certainly out of northern Iraq and western Iraq, as Jews were chased out long ago.

Now, in Syria, we hear the horrific stories of Christians who have been killed and murdered and beheaded simply because they name the name of Jesus Christ. Jews have been slaughtered and beheaded simply because they name the name of their God.

Is there any greater intolerance, Mr. Speaker than the intolerance that has been shown repeatedly, brutally, lethally, by the Islamic State against Jews and Christians, and, yes, Muslims whom they disagree with.

It is a very sobering time. And so, quite rightly, our President, a week ago in his remarks, called upon the Congress to help him do something. The President gave his strategy. I listened with open ears to the President's strategy, and it was very curious to me because the President of the United States developed a strategy that consists of items that the United States is already doing. There was nothing new here.

The President called for an increase of 475 advisers to go into Iraq. The President said there wouldn't be any boots on the ground, of soldiers' boots.

He did not say that we are at war. Even though the Islamic State has declared war against the United States, the President did not say that the United States was going to war.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, something like 7 weeks ago, in the midst of the rise of the Islamic State in Iraq, with the horrific, breathtaking advances and murders, the President of the United States said that he wanted the Congress to withdraw the AUMF, which is the authorization of military force for the United States to be in Iraq.

It was really an unthinkable, bizarre request that this Congress received from the President. Would you please withdraw, the President said, my ability to be able to bring about military force in Iraq?

From my perspective, either the President and his advisers were incredibly shortsighted about this breathtaking rise of the Islamic State which, by the way, didn't just occur in the last 3 or 4 months. I am privileged to serve on the Intelligence Committee in the House of Representatives. We have watched, Mr. Speaker, literally, for the last several years, the rise of the Islamic State. We saw this coming.

That information presumably was available to the President of the United States as well. He knew they were on the rise. There has always been the Islamic jihad in the Middle East, but it has been at a different tempo. It has been on the rise.

Baghdadi, who is in his early to mid-forties, who is a very well-educated man with a doctorate degree, who literally has decades of veteran senior-level experience in al Qaeda, declaring war against the United States, literally, for decades, put himself in the position of being the top man at the very top of the hierarchy, the top of the line of the chain of command of the Islamic State.

□ 1830

Baghdadi knew what he needed to have. He needed to be financially self-sustaining. To do that, he ordered the robbing of banks, particularly beginning in northern Iraq. Some reports estimate that the Islamic State had stolen as much as over $400 million. We don't know the exact amount, but we do know that Baghdadi was determined, and he intended to advance. He knew he couldn't feed an army unless he had money to do so, and so he robbed it from the banks to begin his army.

Then he began to build that army by opening up prison doors and having prison breaks and bringing terrorists who had been jailed out of the prisons to join his band. So he had an army of terrorists, and he trained them even further, and he paid them with money that he stole from banks.

Then Baghdadi did something very strategic. He decided to steal oil fields, and he stole those oil fields in northern Iraq, very productive oil fields. One estimate says that one of the oil fields is worth about 10 billion barrels of oil. Whether or not that is true, that is one of the accounts that I have read. If that is true, it would be equal to about the value of the Bakken oil field, which has proven to be extremely productive and very lucrative in North Dakota here in the United States. Baghdadi is selling oil on the black market today to finance his terrorism, oil fields that he stole from northern Iraq and in the Kurdistan area.

He didn't stop there. He knew, to be viable, he also had to have refined energy products. So what did he do?

Baghdadi then stole and secured an oil refinery so that he could have oil products in order to have energy to run his army and also to be able to provide for the people under his protectorate. A ''protectorate'' is a very generous way of saying ''dictatorship'' in his caliphate. You see, he is the head guy. He is the caliph in his new self-described Islamic State, the caliphate.

You see, Mr. Speaker, he figured out how to finance himself. He took over electrical grids in Iraq and in Syria so that he could be the one who supplies the electricity to the people so that the people would be beholden to him. He put his people in charge of roads and supply lines. Baghdadi also took over a gas field in central Syria. That gas field also could be used to sell the gas for productivity or to deny that gas to Assad or to anyone he considered his enemy. You see, Baghdadi was strategic.

In August, I had the ability and the privilege to go over and visit both Turkey and Jordan and to meet with leadership there on the issue of ISIS, and, while I was there, it was stunning. There was a public display in Jordan of well over 15,000 who were protesting against Israel and in favor of the Muslim Brotherhood and the foreign terrorist-designated organization known as Hamas. There was also a reported demonstration of 7,000 Jordanians who were protesting in favor of the Islamic State. So there is pressure on Jordan—pressure within and pressure from without.

The Islamic State now controls checkpoints, so much so that there is, effectively, no longer a border between Iraq and Syria. That has been erased. Now Iraq and Syria have been joined to one another under the control and the authority of the Islamic State. They control checkpoints not only on Lebanon but also Israel.

It was horrifying to read that the Islamic State had joined up with the Free Syrian Army, the army that the United States has been involved with in the so-called ''vetting'' of moderates and in the training and equipping to fight against the Islamic State.

The Free Syrian Army reports say they had actually joined up with other Islamic jihadists, known as the Jabhat al-Nusra Front, and they took over the checkpoint that controls the area of the Golan Heights leading into Israel. There were upwards of 20 to 40 different U.N. peacekeepers at that checkpoint, and that checkpoint was taken over 200

yards from Israel, as if Israel didn't have enough to deal with in the terrorist organization known as Hezbollah, which is an Iranian proxy on her north, and from Russian influence as well coming through Hezbollah. Israel has had to suffer with indignities from Assad, from Syria, as well as from the Muslim Brotherhood franchise known as Hamas in Gaza.

It has been an extremely difficult summer. I met with refugees while I was in the Middle East region, people who were just peaceful, freedom-loving people just wanting to live their lives and raise their families and love people and worship their god. They were uprooted over this summer and late spring by Islamic jihad, both in Iraq. As for one woman I spoke to, she and her family were uprooted from their home in Iraq. They had to flee their home and abandon everything they owned and flee to Syria. Once they were in Syria, there was a rise of the Islamic jihad in Syria. They had to flee Syria and make their way to Turkey. When I spoke with her, she was on the southern border of Turkey, and she was hoping that she would have the ability, with her family, to move to the United States of America. She was going to go for yet one more final interview at the end of September, and she was hoping that her family would have that chance to come and live in freedom.

That is our wish, Mr. Speaker, for all men. We want all men to have the dignity of living in peace. It is why we honor the American Constitution today on Constitution Day. You see, this Constitution and this country mean something for the rest of the world. We think that the norms and the peacefulness that we enjoy and the prosperity that you see here in the United States must be somewhat normative across the world. We think, well, we have it, really, probably the best, but sometimes we don't recognize, really, how great we do have it. It isn't by accident—it is by design—and it came at a great cost and at a great sacrifice because our Founders recognized these ideals:

Number one, that all men are created equal and that we are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights, rights that aren't given by government, rights that are only given by God: the right to life, to our liberty—our freedom—and to the pursuit of happiness, which means we have the privilege to work, and, once we work, we get to keep the fruit of our own labors.

What a brilliant concept. Where across the world do people have the right to life? Certainly not in Iraq today. Certainly not in Syria today. They don't enjoy the unfettered access to their right to life, because their life is imperiled by the Islamic State, which says to them: Under pain of death, you convert to Islam, or we kill you. You convert to Islam, or you pay us a tax. You convert to Islam, or you have to abandon everything you know and get as far away from us as you possibly can in the short term because we are coming after you in the long term.

Is that life? That is no life at all. But here in the United States, our Founders wisely understood that all of humanity's happiness springs from the right to life.

Number two, liberty, freedom. That is the hallmark and the emblem of the United States of America. If there is any ideal and any value, Mr. Speaker, that our Constitution champions it is this: it is liberty—freedom—from an oppressive government that would force its will on an individual human's life, because the Holy Scriptures teach that life is precious. We are but a flower that quickly fades. We are but a puff of smoke, the Old Testament teaches in the Proverbs. Therefore, this life that God has given to us, that He has breathed into every human being, as He created every human being in His image and His likeness, this is it. This is no dress rehearsal. This is the main event.

Our Founders wisely understood that it is for freedom that we have been set free so that we can then aspire to do whatever it is that we choose to do, the way that we take our finger and write the poetry of each of our lives.

Then, in the Declaration of Independence, our Founders rightly said, through the pen of Thomas Jefferson's, that we are also endowed by our Creator—again, not by a government, not by any government. Only a God who created us, gave us the unalienable right to pursue happiness, which means we can pursue whatever employment, whatever labor that we so desire, and then we have the right, the unfettered right, to keep the fruit of our labor—to build a home, to marry, to start a family, to be able to go out and further and help our community. Oh, what a Nation we have today, Mr. Speaker, the economic powerhouse of the world, the military engine of the world. This is such a great and wonderful gift that was given to us.

That is why it is right and fitting and proper for us to honor and recognize this Constitution Day. I am so grateful and so honored and privileged that we can do exactly that and honor that day. That is why we have to stand for this liberty, something that people in other countries cannot do.

We must therefore observe, and it is why we have to make sure, when there is a great totalitarianism like the Islamic State, which has declared war against the United States, we have a decision to make. Anyone can declare war on you. It is another thing to bring about warlike acts against you in an attempt to defeat you. That is exactly what the Islamic State has done. That is exactly what they have stated their intention is. I believe, if there is anything, Mr. Speaker, that history has taught us it is this: when a madman speaks, we should listen. Baghdadi, most certainly, is rational from his point of view, but his ideas are mad, and, even further, they are immoral and they are evil to deprive life, liberty, and happiness to people.

If I could just pause and ask the Speaker if there is a time limitation that we are looking at. How much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Minnesota has 27 minutes remaining.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I appreciate that update.

Mr. Speaker, we look at the threats that the United States is looking at from the Islamic State: the fact that they have declared war against the United States; the fact that they have already killed intentionally, in a cruel and barbaric manner, American citizens; the fact that they are recruiting American citizens to come and join them in their evil deed; the fact that American citizens have left the Islamic State as terrorists under the creed of the Islamic State. Their creed says that those who join the Islamic State abandon any allegiance to any other government, including the American Government. They then become part of the Islamic State, and their duty and allegiance is to the Islamic State. Once they leave the Islamic State and return to the United States, then they have the ability to come in and be terrorists in the United States. This is nonsensical to me.

You see, Mr. Speaker, earlier this summer, I asked the FBI for a classified briefing. I did so because my home State of Minnesota has a tragic, very unfortunate, nexus to terrorism. We have the distinction of having the only convicted terrorist of 9/11 being from the State of Minnesota. His name is Moussaoui.

We also have a high number of Minnesotans who left Minnesota and abandoned the United States to go and fight on behalf of another al Qaeda organization, known as al-Shabaab. That is an al Qaeda affiliate in Somalia. Well over 50 Minnesotans traveled to join al-Shabaab and fight in the cause of Islamic jihad.

We also had terrorist financing cases, which were successfully prosecuted in Minnesota. Two women were convicted of terrorist financing cases in the Minneapolis Federal district court. Two women were convicted of terrorist financing in Rochester, Minnesota, in Federal district court.

Then we had the Westgate shopping mall terror act in Kenya, and from the terrorists who were involved and claimed sponsorship of this horrific act of the shooting at the Westgate mall in Kenya, the report was that two Minnesotans were a part of that effort. Then we saw, although it hasn't been confirmed by our government, that the terrorists have named two Minnesotans.

Then we saw that very sophisticated recruitment videos were put forth to recruit individuals to come and join al Qaeda. When this occurred, three of them were featured from Minnesota. They were called the ''Minnesota martyrs,'' three young men. One was a

Caucasian American. His name was Troy Kastigar. He had been converted to Islam at a mosque called the Al Farooq mosque in Bloomington, Minnesota, where many of the individuals who have gone to fight on behalf of the Islamic State made their religious home.

Troy Kastigar said that he was honored to be a traitor to America. That was a part of his conviction to the Islamic State. He turned on his country; so, when I asked the FBI earlier this summer—and then, of course we have had, according to the FBI, at minimum, another 20 Minnesotans who have left Minnesota to join the Islamic State, including the first two Americans who were killed fighting on behalf of the Islamic State, both of whom were from the State of Minnesota.

Just as recently as several weeks ago, three young Somali American girls left Minnesota, abandoned their families, and joined the Islamic State. We have a very unfortunate nexus.

It is with that background, Mr. Speaker, that I asked the FBI if I could come in and sit with them and if they would answer my questions in a classified setting.

I wanted to know, number one, had Minnesotans left the United States and joined to fight with the Islamic State. Unfortunately, I was told there were two. It was classified information at the beginning of the summer. Now, tragically, it has been reported worldwide that the very first two Americans were Minnesotans who were fighting for the Islamic State.

I asked the question: If these terrorists choose not to blow themselves up as suicide bombers, or if they are not killed fighting on behalf of the Islamic State, and they choose to fly back to the United States or gain entry to the United States legally through some other means with a U.S.-held passport, would they be given entry into the United States?

Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you, I was completely floored when the FBI said to me, ''Well, yes, of course, these terrorists would be allowed to come into the United States.''

I asked, ''Why? And how?'' They told me, ''We track them, and we put their names on a watch list.'' It isn't perfect, but the FBI puts the names of Americans on a watch list. I asked, ''What happens when they are on a watch list?''

I was told that the Americans with a U.S. passport, who have relinquished U.S. citizenship and have joined the Islamic State, have become terrorists and fought on behalf of the Islamic State then were returning to the United States, would be asked additional questions at screening at an airport before they come into the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I am asked additional questions, sometimes, at the airport. How could this be possible?

I was told by the FBI that the terrorists then would be given entry, and they would be allowed to go, unmolested, to return to their life here in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I submit that is pure madness for us to do that. If there was one thing we should do, it is follow our Constitution, follow the way of all nations, which is to secure the safety and security and sovereignty of that Nation.

To do that, Mr. Speaker, we must take the passports of anyone who has joined up with the Islamic State and do everything that we can to prevent terrorists from reentering the United States.

These terrorists would have had battlefield experience, they would have had established relationships with a terror network, and they potentially may have a plan for terrorist activity in the United States. That should and must be done.

What we also must do—and I agree with the President of the United States—we must defeat this enemy. The Islamic State has declared war against the United States. I believe that we must declare war against the Islamic State, but that is not what President Obama proposed.

You see, President Obama, from his rhetoric, has essentially made clear that he believes that war is obsolete in the 21st century, but that isn't the view of the Islamic State. That isn't the view of the totalitarian regime that has declared war against the United States. War isn't obsolete for their mind; yet the President of the United States is not choosing to engage the United States in war.

It is this odd hybrid where the President wants to say that he is going to try to defeat the Islamic State; yet he is not willing to do what it takes to defeat the Islamic State.

Why do I say that? Because the United States military is the greatest military—Army, Navy, and Air Force—in the world. There is nothing that can even remotely compare to the United States military; yet our President stated—both last week in his address to the Nation, as well as today at MacDill Air Force Base in his remarks—that there will be no U.S. boots on the ground. There will not be a U.S. military presence.

He is willing to use the American Air Force to fly missions and have airstrikes, but not boots on the ground.

You see, it doesn't work that way, Mr. Speaker. A military is a cohesive unit, and this is going up 50,000 feet, we have to understand: Do we have a problem? Yes, we have a problem.

Americans are being killed and beheaded by the Islamic jihadist state. They have declared war against the United States. They are using all possible means to advance themselves to their goal.

They are gaining in strength every day—huge swaths of economic territory, huge swaths of geographic territory. They are increasing the size of their armies. They are making threats against the United States.

What is our response? The President of the United States, number one, is unwilling to declare war against this enemy. He is unwilling to use our United States military to defeat this enemy.

He has asked partners across the world—whether it is Muslim, Arab nations, whether it is our traditional allies—to join him. He received some rhetoric, some nods of the head, that some allies would help him; yet there isn't one word that one country is actually going to supply troops or supply armament or supply training.

We don't know what it is that the President has put together; yet, somehow, some way, he believes that this enemy is going to be defeated. His plan is what he was doing before. It was some advisers in an Embassy in Baghdad, U.S. advisers, but not boots on the ground.

His other avenue of defeat is to have United States tax dollars vet Syrians and, supposedly, Iraqis and train them to be a part of a military effort and give them American armament after 3 and a half weeks of arming.

You see, I really don't understand this methodology, when we already have the best military in the world and the President has decided to put the best option that we have on the sidelines and then he wants to create an ad hoc army on the ground with, at best, thin loyalties to our ultimate objective.

How thin, Mr. Speaker? Well, the RAND Corporation took a look at those who were trained, vetted, and on the ground and fighting in the Free Syrian Army, and the RAND Corporation found that about half—50 percent of those that the United States had vetted, the so-called moderates trained and given American armaments to—about half had been not only sympathetic but had cooperated and joined up with the enemy, the Islamic State and the al-Nusra front.

Well, if, in fact, the RAND Corporation is accurate and we have lost about 50 percent of those that we trained, I would say we don't have a very good success ratio.

As a mater of fact, what I would say is that the Islamic State has an incredible success ratio because we will have—at taxpayer expense—identified, vetted, trained, and armed a whole new level of army for the Islamic State, the enemy.

Who is this working for? Not us. Who is this defeating? Not them. Because the Islamic State continues to grow and we are paying for part of their military training and armaments.

In fact, this same story that came out last week said that the Islamic State had raided our United States weapons depots that we had set up for arming the Free Syrian Army.

What does the President want us to do? The President wanted the United States Congress to get behind his effort to increase the amount of training and arming of the Islamic State.

You see, these moderates have been more than a mirage, more than a charade for quite a bit of time. As a matter of fact, one of my colleagues from Minnesota gave me an article today before we took the vote.

Again, I am not trouncing anyone's vote in this chamber. I want to make it very clear. Both sides of the aisle—Republican and Democrat, individual Members of Congress—wrestled with their vote. Everyone struggled with what to do. Should we back the President in what he is choosing to do? Should we not back the President?

I give all goodwill to every Member of Congress. I castigate no one for the vote that they cast today because this was truly a vote of conscience that every Member made, and every Member needs to speak for themselves.

I only speak for myself tonight, Mr. Speaker, but this came out yesterday. The leader of the Free Syrian Army, the army that the President wants us to spend $500 million to train even more individuals, under this commander, this is what the article says: ''The Free Syrian Army announced they will not sign up to the U.S.-led coalition to destroy the Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria.''

I just want to repeat that again.

''The Free Syrian Army announced it will not sign up to the U.S.-led coalition to destroy ISIS in Iraq and Syria. The group's founder, Colonel Riad al-Asaad, stressed that toppling Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is their priority and that they will not join forces that U.S.-led efforts without a guarantee that the United States is committed to his overthrow.

'' 'If they want to see the Free Syrian Army on their side' ''—our side—'' 'they should give assurances on toppling the Assad regime and on a plan including revolutionary principles.' ''

This is the army that we are entrusting to win this effort against ISIS, and this army is more interested in toppling Assad. They are not interested in toppling ISIS.

''The announcement appears to be reversing an earlier statement on Thursday by the National Coalition opposition, the Free Syrian Army's political wing, which said it was ready to work with the coalition against IS.''

The political arm said yes, but the guys who are actually going to have the boots on the ground say, ''No, we are not going to be there. We are not going to be fighting IS.''

''Saying they had 'long called for this action,' the coalition called on U.S. politicians to authorize the training and equipping of the Free Syrian Army 'as soon as possible.' ''

This is from the Middle East Eye. This is in an article that came out yesterday.

At best, we have got a very, very weak case—a very weak case. There are articles, which I agree with, that put the choice before us. It says: Do we have an enemy? Yes. What do we need to do? Defeat the enemy. I get that, but we have been unwilling to declare a war against this enemy. We have been unwilling to put the United States' military against this enemy.

What the President of the United States wants the United States to do is train some Syrians for 3 and a half weeks. We have already spent how many billion training the Iraqis, and the Iraqi Army could not stand up against the Islamic State army.

We had trained them for a very extensive period of time, with the finest training that we possibly could. They were well-equipped. Because United States residual forces were pulled by the President of the United States, the Iraqi Army could not stand up against the Islamic State, and they ran.

We think that 3 and a half weeks of training is going to do the job of the Syrians? I don't think so.

I think what the President of the United States asked us to do, Mr. Speaker, is to be a scapegoat in his failed strategy. He wants to be able to point to the Congress and say, ''The Congress gave me the authority to do it.''

I don't want to do that. I didn't do that today. I chose to vote ''no.'' I am not being self-righteous when I say that.

My thinking on this is that I am willing to vote for a World War II strategy, meaning I am all in. I believe that we need to declare war against this evil empire of the Islamic State. We need to put all resources with the full plan, with an exit strategy in fully defeating the Islamic State, which we can. They are an army of 12,000.

This can be done, but I won't agree to a Vietnam war style strategy which is exactly, in my opinion, what President Obama chooses—chose to engage, with dribs and drabs, increasing a little here, increasing a little there.

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The President, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, would have been well-served if he also would have demonstrated even more humbleness regarding our strategy—meaning, for the President to be absolutely adamant last night, as well as today, for Secretary of State Kerry to be absolutely adamant today that there will be no U.S. boots on the ground sends a signal. It sends a signal that we are not serious about defeating this evil known as the Islamic State, which we must be.

I ask the question, Mr. Speaker: Who on the ground will be calling for the airstrikes against the Islamic State? Someone on the ground needs to do it. That is how war works. Someone who is on the ground needs to call for those airstrikes.

You cannot win a war when you only have overhead architecture and overhead surveillance. You need people on the ground who can go and gather the intelligence that you need so you know, effectively, how to defeat this enemy.

I ask this: Do we want to defeat this enemy decisively, quickly, and completely so that this enemy understands that, if they ever rear their head again, they had better think twice because we are going to so decimate their evil plan? Are we going to do that? Or are we going to do what happened in Vietnam, drib, drab, a little here, a little there, never quite getting up what it takes to actually defeat that enemy?

What happened in the end in Vietnam? Ultimately, the Communists came in, and that country fell. It was a very sad conclusion because, you see, the postscript to the story of Vietnam was the slaughter of innocents under the evil Pol Pot and the killing fields, and we know the history was an ugly history.

This isn't good, this is awful, but we need to see what has happened. You see, this Arab Spring has been nothing but Islamic bloodletting across the Middle East. In their own words, it is religious-based. In their own words, it is religious, shari'a inspired. In their own words, they are doing the bidding of their god to spill the blood of the infidel. This is an evil, this is a moral wrong, and this must be defeated.

The good news is it can be. We can defeat it. When we are the greatest military powerhouse in the world, when we have the capability to defeat this enemy, I don't understand it. I don't understand, Mr. Speaker, our President who just this week said that he needed to commit 3,000 American troops to the African continent for Ebola—to defeat Ebola.

Now, Ebola is a virus that has a health impact against the American people. I can understand dispatching medical personnel. I can understand dispatching people for humanitarian purposes, but the very weird thing about the President's strategy is it has been changing our military so that its purpose is to bring about humanitarian relief in the form of dispatching them for boots on the ground to deal with Ebola. That is not the purpose of a military.

The President needs to dispatch 3,000 troops—or whatever it takes—into the Islamic State to defeat the Islamic State. We don't go in willy-nilly. We go in with a very good plan, with the most brilliant military minds—and we have them—with the bravest military heroes—and we have them—and with the greatest military equipment that has ever been devised by man, and we have it. We have got it all. We have got the means for defeating this evil enemy.

To not do it, Mr. Speaker, in my mind, that is a moral wrong. That is an evil. To allow that evil to grow, thrive, and continue to slit the throats of men, women, and children; to rob them of their lives; and, yes, to see tragedy borne potentially across this land because, even today, as we are in this Chamber tonight, absolutely nothing has been done to secure America's southern border, absolutely nothing against entry by the Islamic State into

this country, despite the fact that the Islamic State, through their social media, has been declaring their intent to do exactly that.

Why in the world aren't we closing our southern border and every other border and every other port of entry? Why aren't we pulling the passports of Americans who have become terrorists under the Islamic State and who seek to return to the United States?

Why would any sane country choose to take effective, commonsense answers to secure the safety of the American people? That is what a nation that wants to survive would do. That is the better way. That is what I hope the President of the United States will do because, you see, everything is at stake

On this, our Constitution Day, let us recognize the first duty of any nation, especially the greatest Nation, is to secure the safety, sovereignty, and security of the American people. That, we must do, and I am so proud that we have the means to do it.

I believe that we will acquire the judgment to do what needs to be done. It is within the hearts of the American people. It is within our military. Now, it is up to the politicians. Listen to wisdom. Listen to the people, and do what needs to be done.

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

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1214. An act to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on September 17, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 4197. To amend title 5, United States Code, to extend the period of certain authority with respect to judicial review of Merit Systems Protection Board decisions relating to whistleblowers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5134. To extend the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity and the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for one year.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 18, 2014, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

7185. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Guidelines for Designating Biobased Products for Federal Procurement (RIN: 0599-AA18) received August 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7186. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Beef Promotion and Research; Reapportionment [No.: AMS-LPS-13-0079] received September 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7187. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a notification of the President's intent to exempt all military personnel accounts from any discretionary cap sequester in FY 2015, if a sequester is necessary; to the Committee on Appropriations.

7188. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing Brigadier General Lawrence M. Martin, Jr., United States Air Force, to wear the insignia of the grade of major general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7189. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the semi-annual status report of the U.S. Chemical Demilitarization Program for August 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7190. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Burton M. Field, United States Air Force, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7191. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing Brigadier General Mark A. Brown, United States Air Force, to wear the insignia of the grade of major general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7192. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the fiscal year 2013 report entitled, ''Operation and Financial Support of Military Museums''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7193. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Peter M. Vangjel, United States Army, and his advancement on the retired list in the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7194. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Mexico pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

7195. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Regulatory Capital Rules: Advanced Approaches Risk-Based Capital Rule, Revisions to the Definition of Eligible Guarantee (RIN: 3064-AE13) received August 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7196. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final priority. Rehabilitation Services Administration--Assistive Technology Alternative Financing Program [CFDA Number: 84.224D.] received August 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

7197. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medical Devices; Technical Amendment [Docket No.: FDA-2014-N-0011] received September 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7198. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Florida; Infrastructure Requirement (Visibility) for the 1997 and 2006 PM, and 2008 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS [EPA-R04-OAR-2012-0814 and EPA-R04-OAR-2012-0692; FRL-9915-65-Region 4] received August 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7199. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — C.I. Pigment Red 112; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0757; FRL-9914-14] received August 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7200. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alaska [EPA-R10-OAR-2011-0916; FRL-9916-14-Region 10] received September 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7201. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri, Control of Gasoline Reid Vapor Pressure [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0595; FRL-9916-10-Region 7] received September 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7202. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Revision to Control Volatile Organic Compound Emissions from Storage Tanks [EPA-R06-OAR-2012-0096; FRL-9916-32-Region 6] received September 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7203. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: New Hampshire; 111(d)/129 Revised State Plan for Large and Small Municipal Waste Combustors [EPA-R01-OAR-2012-0260; A-1-FRL-9915-71-Region 1] received September 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7204. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; State of Arizona; Pinal County and Gila County; Pb [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0266; FRL-9916-11-Region 9] received September 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7205. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Flazasulfuron; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0445; FRL-

9915-32] received September 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7206. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Saflufenacil; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0622; and EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0124; FRL-9912-91] received September 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7207. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rule on Certain Chemical Substances; Withdrawal of Significant New Use Rules [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2014-0277 and EPA-HQ-OPPT-2014-0166; FRL-9915-69] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received September 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7208. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Sulfuric Acid; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0073; FRL-9914-18] received September 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7209. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Texas: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision [EPA-R06-RCRA-2013-0624; FRL-9915-99-Region 6] received September 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7210. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Trifloxystrobin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0504; FRL-9915-46] received September 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7211. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report entitled, ''National Air Toxics Program: The Second Integrated Urban Air Toxics Report to Congress''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7212. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-36, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7213. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a memorandum of Justification for Action Under Section 1244(d)(1) of the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7214. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe that was declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7215. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Ukraine that was declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7216. A letter from the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, White House, transmitting a letter regarding H. Con. Res. 105; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7217. A letter from the General Manager and Director of Equal Employment Opportunity, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting the Board's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7218. A letter from the Office of the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting two reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7219. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Legal Process for the Enforcement of a Tax Levy or Criminal Restitution Order Against a Participant Account received September 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7220. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2014 through 2018; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7221. A letter from the Deputy Associate Director for Management and Administration, and Designated Reporting Official, Office of the National Drug Control Policy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7222. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's fifth annual report on activities regarding civil rights era homicides, as required by the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act of 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7223. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's quarterly report from the Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2013, July 1, 2013 — September 30, 2013; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7224. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the status of the Tribal Law and Order Act Pilot Program Report to Congress, November 29, 2010 to November 29, 2013; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7225. A letter from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court, transmitting notification that the Supreme Court will open the October 2014 Term on Monday, October 6, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. and will continue until all matters before the Court ready for argument have been disposed of or decided; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7226. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Marine Events in Captain of the Port Long Island Zone [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0329] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7227. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0251; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-179-AD; Amendment 39-17946; AD 2014-16-22] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7228. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell ASCa Inc. Emergency Locator Transmitters Installed on Various Transport Category Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0573; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-091-AD; Amendment 39-17955; AD 2014-17-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7229. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0490; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-133-AD; Amendment 39-17926; AD 2014-16-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7230. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30969; Amdt. No. 3600] received September 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7231. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30968; Amdt. No. 3599] received September 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7232. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30970; Amdt. No. 3601] received September 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7233. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0124; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-197-AD; Amendment 39-17944; AD 2014-16-20] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7234. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30971; Amdt. No. 3602] received September 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7235. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0060; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-194-AD; Amendment 39-17943; AD 2014-16-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7236. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule —

Amendment and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Tuskegee, AL [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0082; Airspace Docket No. 14-ASO-3] received September 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7237. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airspace Designations; Incorporation by Reference Amendments [Docket No.: 2013-0709; Amendment No. 71-45] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7238. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (Embraer) [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0234; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-220-AD; Amendment 39-17952; AD 2014-16-28] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7239. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0258; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-065-AD; Amendment 39-17950; AD 2014-16-26] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7240. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0252; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-213-AD; Amendment 39-17933; AD 2014-16-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7241. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the 2013 annual report on the operation of the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative and the Tropical Forest Conservation Act; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Agriculture.

7242. A letter from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting fiscal year 2016 Budget for the Office of Inspector General; jointly to the Committees on Appropriations, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means.

7243. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2016 budget request, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437d(d)(1); jointly to the Committees on House Administration, Appropriations, and Oversight and Government Reform.

7244. A letter from the Chairman and Vice Chairman, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, transmitting a notification of a public hearing held on May 15, 2014 on ''Stability in China: Lessons from Tiananmen and Implications for the United States''; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5500. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to protect employment and training services for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Ms. WATERS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 5501. A bill to establish a grant program to enhance existing secondary education programs for the purpose of teaching high school students about the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the individual States; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GARRETT (for himself, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 5502. A bill to restore the integrity of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. NADLER, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GRIMM, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. MENG, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. TONKO, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. NEAL, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HOLT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 5503. A bill to reauthorize the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. KIND, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 5504. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and make permanent the above-the-line deduction for certain expenses of elementary and secondary school teachers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. OLSON (for himself, Mr. LATTA, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. FLORES, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. HALL, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. JONES, Mrs. NOEM, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. HARPER, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. LONG, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 5505. A bill to improve the establishment of any lower ground-level ozone standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself and Mr. HECK of Washington):

H.R. 5506. A bill to amend title I of the National Housing Act to, for financing alterations, repairs, and improvements to, or conversion of, existing structures, modify premium charges and the dollar amount limitation on loans, including energy efficiency home improvements; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 5507. A bill to provide for a study by the Institute of Medicine on health disparities, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop guidelines on reducing health disparities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. MORAN):

H.R. 5508. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the marriage penalty in the dollar limitation on the student loan interest deduction; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 5509. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and extend the American Opportunity Tax Credit and to increase the student loan interest deduction; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BYRNE:

H.R. 5510. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for more effective online education verification metrics; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 5511. A bill to require that certain Federal lands be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 5512. A bill to require that certain Federal lands be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. HAHN:

H.R. 5513. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the tax credit for electric vehicle recharging property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5514. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to establish a loan program to assist and provide incentives for manufacturers to reinvest in making products in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 5515. A bill to reauthorize the Elder Justice Act of 2009; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, and 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.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 5516. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to prohibit the discharge of dredged material into the Great Lakes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 5517. A bill to redesignate the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 5518. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the continuing professional education reimbursement provided

to health professionals employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Ms. ESTY):

H.R. 5519. A bill to authorize funding for, and increase accessibility to, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, to facilitate data sharing between such system and the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to provide incentive grants to help facilitate reporting to such systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. POSEY (for himself and Mr. GOODLATTE):

H.R. 5520. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the diversity immigrant program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 5521. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to enter into an agreement with the National Research Council to conduct a study on urban flooding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. STOCKMAN, and Mr. RIBBLE):

H.R. 5522. A bill to abolish the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, transfer its functions relating to the Federal firearms, explosives, and arson laws, violent crime, and domestic terrorism to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and transfer its functions relating to the Federal alcohol and tobacco smuggling laws to the Drug Enforcement Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 5523. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the National Labor Relations Act to protect the health benefits of retirees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. MOORE, Ms. HAHN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. COHEN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HONDA, Mr. POCAN, Ms. CHU, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HIMES, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. KILMER, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. ESTY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. TITUS, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 5524. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that women members of the Armed Forces and their families have access to the contraception they need in order to promote the health and readiness of all members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. STIVERS (for himself and Mrs. BEATTY):

H. Res. 729. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 19, 2014 as National Service Coordinator Day to recognize the value of service coordinators in subsidized and other affordable housing communities for their work to promote and support economic self-sufficiency and independence for low-income families, older Americans, and persons with disabilities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GIBSON (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MORAN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. POLIS, Ms. MOORE, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. HONDA, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SCHOCK, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. PETRI, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. TONKO, Mr. BARBER, Mr. KEATING, Ms. CHU, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LANCE, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. KING of New York):

H. Res. 730. A resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H. Res. 731. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week of September 15, 2014, through September 21, 2014, as ''Balance Awareness Week''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H. Res. 732. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that mandates imposed on manufacturers requiring inclusion of unproven and unreliable technology in firearms is costly and punitive, and the prohibition of firearms without such features is an infringement on the rights of citizens under the Second Amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERS of California (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. MATSUI, and Ms. BASS):

H. Res. 733. A resolution expressing support for designation of the month of September as ''Clinical Research Innovation Month''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5500.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 12,13,14,18

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 5501.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. GARRETT:

H.R. 5502.

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

Recognizing that numerous federal criminal law statutes (through which federal civil asset forfeiture is enacted) have dubious constitutional justifications, this reform bill embeds and advances constitutional principles found in the Fourth, Fifth and Tenth Amendment. The bill also derives it's authority from Congress' Article 1, Section 8, Clause 9 authority to ''constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court.'' This authority includes the rules and procedures used by inferior federal courts.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 5503.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have Power * * * To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 5504.

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

''Amendment XVI to the Constitution of the United States: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.''

By Mr. OLSON:

H.R. 5505.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 5506.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Office thereof.

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 5507.

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

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 5508.

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

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 5509.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BYRNE:

H.R. 5510.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United

States, or in any Department or Officer thereof . . .

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 5511.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 5512.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Ms. HAHN:

H.R. 5513.

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

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

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5514.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to the Congress by Article I. Section 8, Clauses 3 and 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 5515.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 5516.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

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

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 5517.

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. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 5518.

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

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 5519.

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

The Necessary and Proper Clause of Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 5520.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4, which states that Congress has the power to establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization.

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 5521.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 5522.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause I

By Ms. SLAUGHTER:

H.R. 5523.

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

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 5524.

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 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 164: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 292: Mr. SARBANES and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 303: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 445: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 477: Mr. BARROW of Georgia.

H.R. 485: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MEEKS, and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 533: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 640: Mr. MCHENRY.

H.R. 1070: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CARNEY, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. BARBER, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. JENKINS, and Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 1173: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 1250: Mr. SALMON.

H.R. 1331: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1339: Mr. MORAN, Mr. BARBER, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. SOUTHERLAND.

H.R. 1507: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 1597: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 1620: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1652: Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 1755: Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 1761: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 1827: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 1852: Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.

H.R. 2028: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 2143: Mr. SALMON.

H.R. 2156: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 2330: Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 2426: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 2468: Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 2482: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 2500: Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 2506: Mr. GARCIA.

H.R. 2706: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 2794: Mr. GARCIA.

H.R. 2918: Mr. RIBBLE and Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 2985: Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 2994: Mr. GALLEGO and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 3150: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 3462: Mr. ROSKAM.

H.R. 3485: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 3505: Mr. HECK of Nevada.

H.R. 3556: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 3560: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 3680: Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MCKEON, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. REED, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. WALDEN, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 3708: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 3717: Mr. PITTENGER.

H.R. 3726: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 3833: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 3877: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3991: Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 3992: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 4188: Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. SALMON.

H.R. 4190: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 4221: Mr. ROSKAM.

H.R. 4223: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4324: Mr. POSEY and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 4351: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 4432: Mr. PETRI and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4510: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. COOPER, Mr. POLIS, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 4526: Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 4567: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 4611: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 4612: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 4625: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 4634: Mr. SOUTHERLAND.

H.R. 4727: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 4740: Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 4824: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 4833: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 4852: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 4879: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 4886: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

H.R. 4930: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. FINCHER, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 4934: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 4960: Mr. COSTA, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. SALMON, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 4969: Ms. ESTY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 4972: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 4978: Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 4985: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 5069: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 5071: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 5083: Mr. LATHAM and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 5109: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Mr. PETERS of California.

H.R. 5130: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 5183: Mr. ROSKAM.

H.R. 5212: Mr. GARRETT.

H.R. 5213: Mr. REED.

H.R. 5233: Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 5241: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 5252: Mr. DIAZ-BALART and Mr. DESANTIS.

H.R. 5263: Mr. SCHIFF and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 5283: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 5291: Mr. GARCIA.

H.R. 5295: Mrs. LUMMIS.

H.R. 5300: Mr. TIPTON and Mr. BARR.

H.R. 5304: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 5327: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 5336: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LATTA, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 5343: Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA.
H.R. 5364: Ms. MOORE and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 5395: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 5398: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 5403: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 5430: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 5431: Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 5439: Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 5441: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. HOLT, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. WALZ, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 5449: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. WILLIAMS.
H.R. 5451: Mr. KIND, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 5470: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 5475: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H.R. 5478: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HOLT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. CLAY, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 5483: Mr. PEARCE and Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 5488: Mr. VELA, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.J. Res. 44: Mr. TAKANO.
H. Con. Res. 114: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H. Res. 30: Mr. MATHESON.
H. Res. 190: Mr. GARCIA.
H. Res. 281: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. GARCIA.
H. Res. 356: Mr. GARCIA.
H. Res. 422: Mrs. BEATTY.
H. Res. 489: Mr. GARCIA.
H. Res. 619: Mr. DELANEY.
H. Res. 620: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. DUFFY.
H. Res. 707: Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HECK of Nevada, and Mr. GARRETT.
H. Res. 709: Mr. PETERS of California.
H. Res. 718: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
H. Res. 726: Mr. ROYCE, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. QUIGLEY.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, September 16, 2014)

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by Rev. Canon Andrew White, pastor of St. George's Church, Baghdad, Iraq.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Lord God, to You we submit the affairs of this new day, the work of this Senate as it takes its role in leading in a broken world. Today may You give this place great wisdom. May this Senate be the channel of Your healing, the source of Your glory. From this place may there flow the wisdom of not just humanity but of the Almighty.

O Lord, we the people of faith in Iraq—Jews, Christians, and Muslims—give thanks to You for the way this land and this place has stood with us in our terrors and trials. Through this House, we thank You that we have not been left alone. May Your glory be on this land, and may You, O God, bless America.

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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I extend to Chaplain Black our appreciation for the guest Chaplain today. That was a very moving prayer, and I very much appreciate the work our Chaplain does in always giving us courage and helping to build our faith.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until noon today. During that period of time Senators will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The time will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. Following morning business the Senate will proceed to one rollcall vote on the confirmation of John Bass to be the Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, followed by several voice votes on executive nominations.

TWO WASHINGTON NATIONALS STARS HAIL FROM NEVADA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Nevada is a relatively small State population-wise but a large area. We are a State of about 3 million people. We take pride in our home State, as we should. Even though we have grown a lot in the last couple of decades, we are still a big family.

Today Nevadans are celebrating two of our home State's native sons after the Washington Nationals clinched the National League East Division crown. There is a lot of dissension here on the Senate floor and a lot of talk back and forth, but one thing you never hear often enough is that the Republican leader and I love watching baseball. We often share our views of the team and how, if we were there, we may do things a little differently, but we are still a booster for the team.

The reason I mention this today is because there are two individuals who helped the Nationals clinch the National League East Division who have deep roots in Nevada.

In his first season as manager of the team, Matt Williams, from Carson City, NV, has led his team to the National Division series. He has a stunningly powerful record athletically and is just a nice person. He was a baseball and football star at Carson City High. Carson City is the capital of the State of Nevada.

Matt Williams played baseball collegiately for the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, where he was a star. He was so good, he played 16 years in the Major Leagues. He played for the Giants, Indians, and Diamondbacks. He played in the World Series for each of those teams. He is a five-time all-star and a four-time Gold Glove Award winner. He was a stunningly good third baseman, and he sports a World Series championship ring from the Diamondbacks.

Bryce Harper had his picture on the front of Sports Illustrated when he was 15 years old for hitting a home run more than 500 feet. He is a fine young man from a wonderful family. He came to the Major Leagues when he was 18 years old—he may have been 19. I believe he is going to turn 22 soon.

During his rookie year he had a very serious injury. What was the injury? He was running full speed and rammed into the wall at Dodger Stadium, and he was hurt. It took away from his stellar year, but he still did OK. He was Rookie of the Year and on the all-star team that first year. He played baseball at Las Vegas High School, and he left high school and went to a junior community college as a 17-year-old. Because of his power, he went to the National Junior College World Series. He is a two-time all-star. He is in his third season. In 2012 he was Rookie of the Year, and he was hurt again this year because of his enthusiasm for the

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

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game and his never-ending hustle. He hit a triple and went into third base and messed up his thumb. That required surgery, and as a result he missed much of this season. However, he is having a good season in spite of that.

We are very proud of our baseball athletes.

This year one of the greatest baseball players of all time, Greg Maddux, was, of course, on the first ballot and was made a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. This unassuming young man has been an example for how people should be athletes—not a lot of talk, other than when he does talk. He has a lot of humility. He is a great athlete.

I wish Matt Williams, Bryce Harper, and the rest of the team the best of everything when the playoffs get underway. It should be an exciting divisional series.

I also follow the Baltimore Orioles, and until the Nationals showed up, that was about all we had in the area. They have a great team. Their owner is a tremendous trial lawyer. He still works every day practicing law. They have a tremendous team. They have had a few bad breaks. Their very young third baseman was hurt. He lost a lot of this season, as he did last year.

Anyway, it would be a great World Series to have Baltimore playing the Nationals. That would be something I would really look forward to. Again, it was exciting to watch them all year. Two or three games ago Bryce Harper hit one of his towering home runs. They are still talking about how far he hit it.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I join the majority leader in congratulating the Washington Nats in winning the Eastern Division of the National League. It is a pretty exciting development and has a lot of Nevada connections.

KENTUCKY COAL JOBS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is no secret that the Obama administration policies have been extraordinarily harmful to job creation and retention. From the perspective of my home State of Kentucky, there is no greater example of the ill-effects of these policies than the President's war on coal.

Given the unhealthy economy, the Senate should be regularly debating and voting on measures to overturn antijobs policies and pass bipartisan reforms to help grow our economy. But under the current majority, that, sadly, is not the case. The majority leader instead has refused to permit any amendments on preserving coal and coal-fired power all year long—none whatsoever; no votes at all—even though the Obama administration's anticoal rules not only adversely affect States with Republican Senators, such as Kentucky, but States represented by Democratic Members as well.

The Senate's failure to address coal is reflective of the Chamber's dysfunction. While the House is passing bipartisan jobs bills, Senate Democrats' priorities are show votes.

Let's review where we are and how we got here.

In 2008 Candidate Obama said:

> If somebody wants to build a coal power plant, they can—it's just that it will bankrupt them, because they are going to be charged a huge sum for all that greenhouse gas that's being emitted.

I have to say he has been true to his word. Americans have seen a barrage of regulations and redtape from the President's Environmental Protection Agency, strangling the coal industry—one of my home State's most important sources of jobs and economic development. Kentucky miners and thousands more from the Commonwealth whose jobs rely on mining are feeling the pain from the President's efforts.

The regulations and lack of certainty in the coal industry that this administration has caused have contributed to a loss of 7,000 Kentucky jobs in that industry since President Obama took office—7,000 lost jobs. That tells me the overregulation this administration's EPA keeps piling on is contributing in a major way to the job decline in my home State.

Those of us who represent coal States have made numerous attempts to rein in EPA, but the majority leader and fellow Democrats here in Washington have blocked us at every turn.

Last September I introduced the Saving Coal Jobs Act. The bill would have ended the abuse of the permitting process by the EPA by requiring the Agency to approve or veto mining permit applications within 270 days of their submission. It was simply a time limit to make a decision. This legislation is necessary because the EPA's tactic of choice is to sit on permits, effectively killing them. My bill also included language prohibiting any new carbon emission standards on new or existing powerplants as mandated by Federal agencies without the approval of Congress. After all, Congress, not the executive branch, is supposed to write our Nation's laws.

Unfortunately, what happened when I introduced this legislation is something that has become all-too familiar. When I made a motion to proceed to the bill, it was blocked by the majority leader.

In April I offered my Saving Coal Jobs Act as an amendment to the then-pending unemployment insurance bill before the Senate. This motion was blocked by the majority leader as well.

In May I again offered the Saving Coal Jobs Act as an amendment to the then-pending energy efficiency bill. Once again it was blocked by the Senate majority leader.

A few days later in May I offered legislation to stop the EPA from moving forward with its anti-coal jobs carbon regulations. My amendment, introduced along with Senators VITTER and HOEVEN, would have halted the administration from moving forward with new regulations on coal-fired powerplants until the technology required to comply with the regulations is commercially viable, which currently it is not. Once again this commonsense measure on behalf of Kentucky coal miners and their families and jobs was blocked by the majority leader, and that bill was originally sponsored by a colleague on the other side of the aisle, on the Democratic side. It fared no better under the majority leader than do Republican procoal bills.

Moreover, the majority leader is not just blocking procoal legislation on the Senate floor, he is also willing to shut down the committee process for fear of procoal amendments having the votes to pass. In June, he had the Senate Democrats prevent the Energy and Water Appropriations bill from being marked up when they learned I had the votes for my amendment reining in government regulations on coal-fired powerplants. So once it was clear the votes might be there in committee, they shut down the committee process.

Earlier this year, the President's EPA announced new regulations it wanted to enact on existing powerplants that would be a dagger to the heart of my State's middle class and constitute the single worst blow to Kentucky's economy in modern times. The proposed EPA regulations on existing powerplants would kill jobs and raise utility rates across the State while making the transmission of electricity less reliable. The regulations would adversely affect Kentucky powerplants that account for literally thousands of Kentucky jobs.

These regulations are why this June I introduced the Coal Country Protection Act—legislation to block the President's proposed regulations on carbon emissions from existing powerplants if those regulations eliminate jobs, cost our economy dollars, increase electricity prices or jeopardize electricity reliability.

Those requirements are just common sense. Yet once again the majority leader refused to allow a vote on my legislation.

The importance of my Coal Country Protection Act is reflected in the findings of a recent Government Accountability Office, or GAO, study. My colleague Senator MURKOWSKI from Alaska requested this study which found that as a result of EPA's existing and proposed regulations, the number of coal-fired powerplants closing across the country is even higher—even higher—than what was originally estimated by the GAO in 2012.

These coal plant retirements are largely due to EPA redtape. Current

proposed regulations, from carbon regulations to proposed lower ozone standards, will only make this number increase if they move forward.

These shutdowns mean higher electricity prices. Sadly, EPA bureaucrats don't understand or don't care about how the abundance of coal in Kentucky permits the State to benefit from relatively low energy rates which make our businesses more competitive and make it easier to attract jobs. As we saw during last winter's cold snap, our country needs coal and ready access to it. Coal allows us to generate affordable power when there is an uptick in electricity use combined with spikes in natural gas prices. But as the EPA uses the administrative fiat to terminate existing and future coal-fired powerplants, there will be less coal when we need it the most—when we need a source of affordable power. Families throughout the country who rely on coal for electricity could find themselves in a tough spot in the near future with the current administration in office.

Those are the facts about this administration's war on coal, but let me provide a more vivid picture about Kentucky coal itself.

Kentuckians have been mining coal for generations. Kentucky coal helped power the Industrial Revolution that transformed our economy into the largest and most prosperous in the world. Kentucky coal has even contributed to the struggle to defend our Nation in times of war. Kentucky's coal miners have done so much for our Nation. The Senate should not be turning its back on them now.

Jimmy Rose of Pineville, KY, is well known to many as the voice of coal country. Jimmy is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps who served in Iraq, a former coal miner, and a finalist from the television show ''America's Got Talent.'' He is famous for his song ''Coal Keeps the Lights On.'' I think Jimmy put it best when he said, ''Coal keeps the bills paid, the clothes on the backs, and shoes on the feet.''

I am not going to stand idly by while this administration and this EPA try to wipe out the lifeblood of my home State. The Senate was created to be a deliberative body, one that would debate and legislate on the great issues of the day. Instead, the Senate, as it is currently run, does all it can to avoid important subjects such as the war on coal.

It doesn't have to be that way. The Senate can still reclaim its mantle as a body of vigorous debate and legislative achievement, and the Kentucky coal miner can still do an honest day's hard work for good pay, because after this administration is out of office, the coal will still be in the ground. After this administration leaves office, the coal will still be in the ground.

So I am going to fight for that Kentucky coal miner to hold on to our State's birthright. This war on coal is not over, not by a long shot.

ENERGY POLICY

Mr. MCCONNELL. On another matter, I just explained why the war on coal has been so damaging to the people of my State. It is clear to me at least that we need to work together toward sensible, all-of-the-above energy policy. The good news is that the Republican-run House is set to present us with another perfect opportunity to work across the aisle and do just that this very week. The House plans to pass and send over a bipartisan legislative package that would create jobs while helping to make energy more affordable and more abundant.

Among other things, this energy package would finally approve the Keystone Pipeline. This is a project that is safe, shovel-ready, and could create tens of thousands of jobs right away. It is just unacceptable that the administration has now spent 6 years—6 years—dragging its feet on the Keystone Pipeline. I commend my colleague from North Dakota Senator HOEVEN for bringing attention to that fact and for his strong vocal leadership on this issue. While some on the other side of the aisle claim to be supportive of Keystone jobs, they have failed to stand up to the majority leader who has blocked this effort time and time and time again on behalf of the Obama administration. We need to approve the House legislative package and finally get this pipeline built and these Keystone jobs created.

But the House's energy package would do a lot more than just that. It would also modernize the permitting process, allow for more energy exploration, increase exports of American energy, and it would help us fight back against the Obama administration's war on Kentucky coal jobs in several different ways.

One bill would prevent the administration from developing more job-killing coal regulations and another from Representative WHITFIELD would push back on the coal regulations that have already been issued.

This package is common sense. I applaud our colleagues in the House for their efforts on this issue. It presents a perfect opportunity for our Democratic friends, if they are willing to support it, to prove they are serious about real solutions for middle-class families—that they have a real agenda beyond just designed-to-fail bills.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT DANIEL N. FANNIN

Mr. MCCONNELL. This morning I wish to share with my colleagues the story of a brave Kentucky airman who loved his country so much he defended it at the cost of his life.

U.S. Air Force SSgt Daniel N. Fannin, of Morehead, KY, was killed in the crash of his reconnaissance plane near Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan on April 27, 2013. It was just a few weeks after his 30th birthday.

For his service in uniform, Staff Sergeant Fannin received several medals, awards, and declarations, including the National Defense Service Ribbon, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, and the Bronze Star.

Daniel's mother Sharri Jones recalls this of her son:

> Daniel flew on this Earth as an airman. His faith has earned him angel wings now. He died serving others, serving his country, and serving God. This mother is blessed.

Daniel grew up in Morehead and attended Rowan County Senior High School, from which he graduated in 2001. He enlisted in the Air Force shortly after graduation and at the time of his death was a 12-year veteran.

Daniel's mother Sharri remembers:

> I frequently told Daniel he was my hero. Benjamin Disraeli said, ''The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example.''
>
> These words epitomize my son. His name will be remembered, and his works are indeed great examples. He was then, and will forever be, my hero.

Daniel's mother Sharri continues:

> I used to tell Daniel that it didn't matter what he did as a career in life, but I expected him to be the best that he could be, no matter if he was a ditch digger or a CEO. He did me proud by doing just that. He was the best man that he could possibly be.

As Daniel grew up, he had to learn how to do chores such as laundry, cleaning, and cooking. Sharri's mother said:

> Like all kids do, he complained constantly, and sometimes it was a battle getting him to do those things. I was fortunate enough to get to attend his Air Force basic training graduation ceremony in San Antonio. During liberty, he took me aside and said: ''Mom, I want to thank you.'' I said: ''What for, son?'' He said: ''For making me do all of those things you made me do, like laundry. It sure made things a lot easier for me here. Some of these guys didn't even know how to turn a washer on!''

Daniel was an avid reader from his early childhood. ''The hardest form of punishment for him was not to allow him to read,'' says his mother Sharri. Daniel's wife Sonya Fannin certainly agreed. ''He could read a 400-page book in a day or less,'' she says.

Daniel met Sonya while stationed in Oklahoma City. Sonya says:

> One of my favorite stories to tell was that on our first date he went to the flower shop to pick a bouquet. He spent hours in the shop, he said, before finally picking two dozen white roses. When he presented them at the door, Danny didn't know that those were my favorite flowers, but that was the moment I knew.

Daniel loved to go camping, hiking, biking, and fishing. He loved the outdoors. On his and Sonya's 5-year anniversary trip to Maui, Danny's favorite activity was a submarine ride 170 feet below sea level. He liked to say he had been to the depths of the ocean and flown to the highest heights after that trip.

Daniel was assigned to the Air Force's 552nd Operations Support Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City. He was an airborne sensor operator and a qualified Air Force air surveillance instructor who served with distinction at Tinker Air Force Base.

In his dozen years of service, Daniel deployed on three tours as an E–3 AWACS, or airborne warning and control system, aircraft surveillance technician. He was also an MC–12 sensor operator. While in Afghanistan, Daniel was assigned to the 361st Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron as a member of the 451st Air Expeditionary Wing at Kandahar Air Base.

His mother said:

After his death, multiple superior officers have told me how respected he was, how well Daniel performed his duties, and that he was exceptional at mentoring young airmen personally as he was professionally. Daniel was a very devout man. Many have said that he led them to Christ or reconnected them with the Lord.

His wife Sonya agrees:

He was a Christian man of Christian values and morals. He served God in all that he did.

Daniel also liked to laugh and joke with his family and friends. Sonya says:

He went by many nicknames; ''Dan the man,'' ''Fan Dannin,'' and my dad's favorite, ''Lieutenant Dan.'' My dad would always ask, ''Lieutenant Dan, have you flown much lately?'' Danny would stick his arms out to each side and say he had been flying as much as he could.

After Daniel's death, at a park located near Tinker Area Force Base, where he had been stationed, Daniel's legacy was honored with a replica E–3 AWACS aircraft dedicated in his honor in a ceremony in April of this year. Inscribed on the tail of the E–3 replica honoring Daniel are the words ''Service Before Self,'' one of the Air Force's core values those who knew Daniel knew he lived by.

Sonya Fannin was present for the dedication to her husband, and she spoke to the crowd of about 300. She said:

This memorializes Daniel's very essence, his giving spirit in a way which those in the public can see. Memorializing Danny here in the public park, a place in which our civilian friends and family can visit and heal on their own time, is truly special.

Daniel's family members and friends are foremost in our thoughts as I recount this story for my Senate colleagues today. They include his wife Sonya Fannin, his mother Sharri Jones, his grandparents Henry and Fern Hamm, and many other beloved family members and friends.

I would like to close with some words from Daniel's mother Sharri about her son. Here is what she said:

I know that there are many who continue to grieve deeply over Daniel's passing. To them I would say, take the things that Daniel shared with you, learn from them, and pass them forward. Give others what he gave you. In that way, he will live forever.

I couldn't agree more with such a heartfelt sentiment.

I would like the family of SSgt Daniel Fannin to know that Members of the Senate do indeed recognize the things Daniel gave to his country—namely, his service, his life, and his sacred honor. We will be forever grateful.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each and with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

REMEMBERING MATT HALEY

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I come to the floor today my heart heavy with a challenging task, which is to convey the remarkable, the special, the powerful spirit of a friend who passed 3 weeks ago in a tragic accident in India.

Matt Haley was a remarkable Delawarean. Matt Haley was a gifted and accomplished chef and entrepreneur. Matt Haley was someone who touched so many lives in my home State of Delaware.

In 2012 Matt won the Delaware Restaurant Association's Cornerstone Award, a lifetime achievement award recognizing restaurateurs who dedicate their lives to humanitarian efforts.

Matt owned eight different restaurants all across the beach region so well known to folks here in Washington. Matt owned restaurants in Rehoboth Beach, Lewes, Ocean View, Bethany Beach, Fenwick Island, and was involved in dozens of other business enterprises in other States.

In 2014 Matt had the best year he ever had in terms of the reach and scope of his potential and his vision and his recognition by his profession. He won the National Restaurant Association Cornerstone Humanitarian Award. I was thrilled to be able to join in that celebration here in Washington. He won the International Association of Culinary Professionals Humanitarian Award. He won the James Beard Humanitarian Award in a remarkable celebration in New York. He won all three major recognitions, major awards from the restaurant and culinary industry—the triple crown, as it were.

Having never met him, you might think this man, having been so successful as an entrepreneur and a businessman and so recognized and celebrated in all these different ways, would have been puffed up and filled with himself and with pride and with a sense of accomplishment and success. Matt did have a sense of accomplishment and success, but it came from a very different place. His spirit, his personality was profoundly different than that brief resume might suggest because Matt was someone who had a second and a third chance at life, so he embraced it with a passion and an openheartedness I have never seen anywhere else.

Matt was 53 years old and had been sober for 24 years. Not many years before this remarkable year of success he had this year, Matt had been riding the bus to work as a minimum-wage dishwasher as he was reinventing himself. Matt spent 4 years in prison on a 13-year prison sentence.

As he memorably remarked in a talk he gave days before he left on this trip to India, Matt had life-altering, terrible experiences as a child. Matt had managed to grow up in an environment of circumstances and have experiences that would cripple any human person, any spirit, and had become someone who was violent and addicted, and inevitably, as a consequence of a lot of his actions, he ended up in jail. He was exactly the sort of person so many would be willing to write off. Yet Matt found an opportunity through the culinary arts, through the simple and powerful skill of cooking for others. He found a pathway back and a roadway up. Matt was someone who cooked not just well but was gifted at pulling together completely unrelated items and making something simple, tasty, and powerful.

Matt understood what a remarkable pathway toward success and independence restaurants can be for those who start working at the very lowest end of the scale in our country in terms of pay scale and yet can steadily grow to be successful managers or even restaurant owners.

Matt was someone who also had just gotten a positive diagnosis after struggling with a nearly life-ending bout with cancer. Matt had nearly died to this world once as a young man in prison and then had nearly died to us a second time through cancer.

I was blessed to have gotten to know him just in the last few years and to have been touched by the power of his energy. Matt had a hunger to connect with and touch and help love others in the world who hadn't yet seen the possibilities of this world.

Matt would go anywhere, anytime to help someone in need in Delaware.

The stories are legend of what Matt did spontaneously and powerfully to reach out and touch folks in our home State and around the world who needed his special gift—not just his resources but his energy and his kindness.

Matt's business partner Scott shared with me a story that he was literally driving down the road and came across a van from the Delaware Adolescent Program, Inc., DAPI, a van for a program that helps young moms complete school and be healthy and successful

mothers. Their van was broken down by the side of the road, and, after learning more about the program and its impact and its importance and seeing their dilapidated and outdated van, he literally bought them a new one on the spot.

Matt was someone who, having never traveled before until recent years when he first became successful, found himself challenged and then enlivened and then aflamed with a passion for traveling around the world and for hearing from and connecting with young people and their needs. He tells much more powerfully than I can the story of his becoming connected to young women, to girls, in Nepal, victims of trafficking, victims of sexual abuse, who were hungry and lonely and to whom he was able to help provide food and shelter and hope.

He later also connected with a whole community in Central America, and he traveled regularly to India and Nepal and to Central America as well as up and down my State. He volunteered in our prisons. He worked with our food bank. He spent time and gave resources in India and Nepal and in Central America. Literally the last time I spoke to Matt, I had just had an opportunity to meet a young woman who was truly struggling to find opportunity in our home State. She was a recovering drug addict and came up to me at an event in Dover and frankly said she never believed someone in my position would care and would work and take any risk to help someone like her find employment. She was interested in possibly working in a restaurant.

As we talked at greater length, I told her Matt's story. I told her how this young man, full of anger and abuse and difficulty in his young life, had ended up an addict and in prison and yet, through his own determination and through the kindness and partnership of others, had managed to go on to be an incredible success, an employer to hundreds, even thousands, and a contributor and a leader to groups such as La Esperanza and the food bank, and to support public school teachers and to support folks coming out of prison. I asked if she would be interested in hearing from him.

In my last conversation with Matt—a man who was incredibly busy, as he was finishing up several business projects and about to get on a plane to meet a long commitment with a group of girls in need—he said: Absolutely. I would love to talk to her. Get her on the phone with me.

He made time the next day to meet her, encourage her, and invite her to come to the food bank presentation he was making.

To his very last breath, Matt was passionate about touching and changing the lives of others. His very last initiative was to fund teachers and schools in southern Delaware and help provide supplies for them in their classrooms, and his very last day was spent riding a motorcycle on one of the highest and most dangerous roads in the world in the Himalaya to personally deliver supplies and engagement and support to girls in a remote village in a difficult and distant part of the world.

Matt Haley's compassion, his spirit, and his energy touched deeply me and so many others. His determination to do everything he could with every day he had and to make every difference he could in the world should inspire and challenge all of us. He has left a significant amount of his accumulated resources to his Global Delaware Fund, which will continue his great work in these many places.

It is my hope and my prayer that all of us who have had our lives touched by Matt and by his unique and infectious humor and spirit will continue his remarkable lifetime of work and that all of us will remember that in this Nation, every person has value and every person has potential no matter where they are from or where they are today. Their path forward can be lifted if we just continue to carry forward the remarkable passion and spirit of Matt Haley.

I thank the Chair.

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. AIR FORCE AND MAJOR K.C. COURTLAND

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, it is a good day for Major Courtland to be here because another thing I want to talk about today is the Air Force itself and to pay tribute to those in the Air Force. This is the anniversary of the 67 years of service and sacrifice for our Nation—clearly the greatest air power in the history of the world, the first place we turn when we want to make an immediate difference in a chaotic situation in the world.

We are talking this week, again, about how the Air Force can make a difference, whether it is those based at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri or those based all over the world. The Air Force continues, in so many ways, to project our strength and our commitment to a more peaceful world by using the power that we do have in a way that ensures that in some cases the playing field is more fair because we keep people on the ground rather than let despotic governments get their weapons in the air. In some places we are able to intervene, as we did recently in conjunction with the Peshmerga, to allow the recapture of the dam in Iraq that is essential, and even beyond that, could have itself been used as a great weapon if that dam would have been allowed to be breached and then the flood that would have occurred because of that.

The Air Force was created in 1947 under President Harry Truman's leadership. Prior to that it was called the U.S. Army Air Corps. I am proud to stand today at one of the desks that Senator Truman used on the Senate floor—a desk later used by other Missourians, by Senator Eagleton, by Senator Danforth, by Senator Bond—but a desk used by President Truman as he served in what he said were the best years of his working life—his time as a Senator.

But he faced lots of hard challenges as President. One was how we moved forward in a new and different world after World War II and how we used our technology in different ways. One of those was to recognize that the U.S. Army Air Corps had risen to a place that it really deserved to be recognized for what it was—the Air Force. The first Secretary of the Air Force, another Missourian, was Senator Stuart Symington, who then would later serve in this body as a Senator.

Certainly, we have benefited in our office from having Kelly Courtland, Maj. K.C. Courtland, who has been helping us this year in my responsibilities on both the Armed Services Committee and the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. This is actually her anniversary as well as a member of the Air Force. She now completes 24 years of Air Force service on exactly the same day that the Air Force was established 67 years ago. Twenty-four years ago Major Courtland enlisted in the Air Force. For the last year she has helped us fulfill the responsibilities in our office that we have and the No. 1 responsibility of the Federal Government—the one thing almost no one would argue we could do for ourselves; that is the responsibility of defending the country.

We are hoping we see Major Courtland stationed in Missouri one of these days. She is from Ludington, MI. She will be running her 85th marathon this weekend—the Air Force Marathon. She values her military training. She served from enlisted to now her role as a major and has been unbelievably helpful to us at this time.

As we think about Major Courtland and all of the others who serve, we want to be very mindful of their service, their willingness to step forward to defend our freedom, to be willing to defend our freedom at a time when, once again, we are talking about this week those who would threaten our freedom and what we will do about that and how we are looking to be sure that the strategy we have and the resolve we have is a resolve that allows us to convince our enemies that a peaceful world—a world where people can pursue their own values, where they are able to pursue their own right of conscience, where they are able to look within themselves and determine their own religious convictions rather than have someone tell them what those convictions are and demand that everybody follow exactly the same path in the way they view religion and the way they consequently would be required, because of that one view, to view society and how people should live together—hopefully those who defend us will get the kind of support and the kind of thoughtful consideration and

determination they need from the people in the Senate and the House, from people in the Defense Department and the administration, from people in the White House, from the Office of the President himself on down who are going to be making decisions that will put others in harm's way as we try to prevent greater numbers of Americans, frankly, from being in harm's way.

I clearly count myself among those who believe this is a real danger to us—the location of this ISIS threat, the understanding from the Secretary of Defense that somewhere between 1 and 200 Americans are there fighting alongside this genocidal group, and many times that from Europe fighting alongside this group—people with passports that allow them to come to the United States, to not worry about coming over the border and just worrying about buying a plane ticket and coming in that way.

Of course there are those who say—and I agree: If we know who they are, we should take their passports away. That is easy if you know who they are to invalidate the passport. It is pretty hard if you do not know who they are to invalidate that passport. In fact, it just cannot be done. There are not only Americans coming back, but others from visa waiver countries who just simply have a passport from their country and they buy a plane ticket. Suddenly those who have become steeped in this wrong-headed view of the world—who have become conditioned to the idea that a life, if it does not agree with you, does not matter—they would be able to come into this country and into European countries in ways that we have not seen before and still have access—as terrorist groups have had before to many other countries—to poison the minds of people who are looking for an answer. I can assure you that this is not the right answer.

So I wish my colleagues well as we make these important decisions. We are going to be looking at whatever we decide to do in the next couple of days and over the next 75 days or so. We will have a chance to revisit that decision as we look at how force is being applied and how our hopes are being met. We will see if what the President thinks will happen as a response to what we are doing here is actually what appears to be happening later this year.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BLUNT. I have come to the floor almost every week. I think I have come to the floor every week it was possible to be on the Senate floor over the course of the last year to discuss the changes we have seen in health care. We are now approaching the 1-year anniversary of the—everybody would agree—disastrous launch of ObamaCare. Most Americans now agree, not only was the launch disastrous, but actually the changes in our health care system have not been what they would have hoped for.

The administration has delayed the 2015 open season, to sign up for health care, until the middle of November now. Interestingly, the middle of November is right after the election. I assume that is not a coincidence that the administration does not want voters to be reminded, between now and election day, of what the problems are in just trying to sign up and what the new costs and new deductibles may be.

But for whatever reason, of the many delays and the many determinations by the administration over and over again, no matter what the law said, the administration decided: Well, we can actually change that. There is no justification for November 15 except the first Tuesday in November. I think we all know that. No matter how many things we delayed, though, the health care plan continues to get less and less popular. Every month, as I look at those numbers, fewer Americans have confidence in the direction we are headed in health care than we did before.

Earlier this week, CMS began sending notices to consumers enrolled in the exchanges that have income-related discrepancies that do not match the Federal data. Apparently, about 363,000 individuals are receiving those letters. If they do not respond by September 30, the subsidy they thought they were having for their policy will not be there. In August CMS began to reach out to people who required proof of citizenship. Apparently, it is too much trouble to have proof of citizenship to take to the polls with you but not too much trouble to have citizenship proof if you are going to participate in this program that taxpayers pay for and that voters, ultimately, by who they send here and who they send to the White House, are responsible for.

On Monday, it was announced that around 115,000 individuals—1,700 of them were Missourians—were notified that their coverage would end by September 30 unless they could provide that verification of citizenship. That is not a very good notice to get with 2 weeks and a couple of days of notification: By the way, you are about to lose your health care coverage unless you can provide documents and provide them right now.

USA Today reported that healthcare.gov still remains so ''glitchy,'' according to them, ''remains so glitchy,'' that some people are being forced to send their information multiple times. Many cannot access their accounts, and then now there is the well-understood concern that the information may not be nearly as secure as we would want it to be.

Serco, a company that was hired to provide services for processing paper applications—we found out just a few days ago, after months of waiting, that the Federal Government finally responded to a St. Louis television station—KMOV's freedom of information request which they submitted in March. It takes a long time to get one simple question answered. The question was: How many paper applications are actually being processed at this processing center in Wentzville, MO? How many applications were processed between October of last year and March of this year?

The number was not so big that it should have been that hard to count. It was less than 5 percent of the anticipated number that the workforce was put in place for and the company was paid to process—about 271,000 people over that several months' period of time.

The director of the project testified in September that the company, he said, was ''prepared to manage an estimated 6.2 million paper applications'' between that period of time, and instead they managed 271,000. When you have a workforce in place to do 6.2 million applications and they do about one-quarter of a million, no wonder people from that workplace were coming forward. Numerous whistleblowers, according to KMOV, were saying: We are playing board games. We have library books stacked up on the tables. We are told, every once in a while, to push the button that refreshes our computers so that it at least appears that the computer has not just gone away in one of many miscalculations in how this was going to work.

A GAO report released on Tuesday confirmed that people who had had concerns about this bill because it would use Federal funding for the first time to lead to taxpayer-funded abortions—and many of my colleagues in the House voted for this and voted for it only because President Obama repeatedly promised that the health care law would not lead to American tax dollars being used for this purpose. It is a longstanding policy. It is a policy that Americans have strongly supported for a long time. Unfortunately, this new report by the government itself indicates that was one more government promise not kept.

We are on the verge of entering the second year of healthcare.gov. We are on the verge of entering the second year of this new Federal involvement in people's health care decisions. I think there is a reason that every week, every month, when Missourians are asked by the Kaiser Foundation and others about this, this is less popular than it was the month before.

Hopefully, when we come back next year, we will look for ways to make health care work better. Then we will begin to see people have more confidence if we would do that effectively month after month, instead of less confidence month after month.

I yield back and 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. MANCHIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. MANCHIN. I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes or until my remarks are complete.

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

THE MIDDLE EAST AND ISIS

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the gravest and most important issue we can debate in Congress. I am here to talk about America's involvement in the Middle East and President Obama's plan to defeat ISIS. Make no mistake, we must defeat and destroy ISIS. But how we destroy them is what we must get right.

I applaud the President for presenting a plan to the American people. I support airstrikes against ISIS. I support providing humanitarian aid. I support cutting off terrorist funding sources. Doing these things has already helped to prevent genocide and has already begun to roll back ISIS's gains in Iraq.

I also support in engaging the world community, but most importantly Turkey and the Arab League nations. Unfortunately, I have not seen signs from the region that tell me we have their full support. This should be an Arab ground war and a U.S. air war, but I cannot and will not support arming or training the Syrian opposition forces. I did not come to this decision easily.

I spoke with military and foreign policy experts. I attended classified briefings and asked questions of this administration—but, most importantly, I studied our history.

We have been at war in that part of the world for the past 13 years. If money and military might could have made a difference, it would have by now.

In Iraq alone, we spent the better part of 8 years training the Iraqi police and military force of a 280,000-person army at the cost of $20 billion to the American people—$20 billion. The first time they had to step up and defend their country, their people, and their way of life, what did they do? They folded in the face of ISIS, abandoning their equipment and facilities to the enemy.

I ask my colleagues and the President, why do we think that training the rebels would turn out any differently?

In West Virginia, we understand the definition of insanity. We get it.

The first principle of war is to know your enemy. And we certainly know our enemy.

ISIS is a barbaric terrorist with no respect for humanity, and they deserve to die. I have seen the videos and, like every American, I was disgusted and outraged.

But as it is most important to know your enemy, it is equally important to know your allies—and I am not confident we know who our allies are.

To illustrate that point, I refer my colleagues to press reports that moderate Syrian opposition forces sold American journalist Steven Sotloff to ISIS, who beheaded him and put the video on the Internet. Are those people our allies?

Who are our other allies in this fight? As of today, we have only hints of military support from Arab countries that themselves face a greater threat from ISIS than any one of us.

Syria's neighbors have the technical ability and the financial resources to support and train the Syrian opposition forces. If that is the correct course of action we should take, they have the wherewithal to do it.

In the 1991 Iraq war, we had commitments from our allies around the world, but most importantly from the Arab community. We had a total buy-in. I know Secretary of State Kerry has been working tirelessly to build a similar coalition and to recruit support from Iraq's neighbors, because it is their neighborhood and theirs to defend. I hope it is successful because, as our intelligence community has said repeatedly, ISIS could soon become a direct threat to the United States of America. But I strongly believe that if our military arms and trains Syrian rebels, we will be involving ourselves in a ground conflict that we cannot resolve where potentially everyone involved is our enemy.

To my mind, the reasons not to arm Syrian rebels today are very clear. No. 1, first, the weapons we give to moderate opposition may not remain in their hands. If my colleagues have seen the videos of ISIS shipping U.S. Army humvees and MRAPs out of Iraq that we gave to the Iraqi Army, they will understand what I mean.

No. 2, I have seen no evidence that the Syrian rebels we plan to train and arm will remain committed to American goals or our interests. The vast majority of national level Syrian rebel groups are Islamist, none of whom are interested in allying with the United States. This is not to their best interests—and not in their interest—and none of whom we should be associating with.

Further, the opposition fighters we will train care more about overthrowing Assad's regime than they do about defeating ISIS. Assad is evil, make no mistake about it, but he is not a threat to America. If the moderate opposition has to choose between defeating Assad and defeating ISIS, why do we believe—think about this—they will choose our priority over their own? Why would we even think that? How do we know they won't join forces with ISIS if it helps them overthrow Assad, their main objective?

No. 3, authorizing military support for Syrian rebels will inextricably draw us into a civil war we have no way to end—and we have seen this picture unfold before. Our fight is against ISIS and the Islamist terrorist groups that threaten the United States. A limit of that fight should be doing what we need to do to protect Americans and to prevent genocide. Every further step we take from that basic principle of protecting Americans and preventing genocide takes us back down the road of Middle Eastern nation-building. That means we should support others with counterterrorism forces, intelligence gathering, air power, and diplomatic efforts—and it means stopping the flow of illicit oil, money, and fighters across Syria's borders. We do not need to arm and train Syrian rebels to protect Americans.

I would ask my colleagues to consider America's history of intervention in the Middle East. It has not been a successful one. Interventions have failed in Lebanon, Somalia, Libya, Iraq, and Afghanistan is on the brink of failure.

What did we learn from our actions? Certainly not that going into Muslim countries to restore order or restore democracy is a winning strategy for us.

I have been very clear: We have every right to and we must—we must—defend ourselves and protect American citizens and interests against terrorists anywhere in the world. I again voice my strong support for the counterterrorism efforts already ongoing to protect Americans, but we have proven by blood and treasure already spent that we have not made a difference with American boots on the ground in this part of the world.

Some have used the examples of our garrisons in Germany, Japan, Korea, and the Balkans as examples of where the United States successfully established the rule of law with residual military forces, but such comparisons have little basis in history. Once our mission was achieved and occupation began, our troops did not face the threat of violence from the same people we had just defended and liberated.

Others have said if we had kept a residual force in Iraq that ISIS would never have taken hold, and I respectfully disagree. How can I fault a President for pulling troops out after 8 years, billions spent, and thousands of lives lost, with no end in sight? Again we trained in Iraq a military of 280,000 persons at a cost of $20 billion, and when they faced their first test, they folded. That was a fraction of the total cost of our wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I wish to give a rundown of where we stand today. In Iraq, conservatively, we have spent $818 billion. In Afghanistan, we have spent $747 billion, and that is continuing to grow. The total cost of our recent wars: $1.6 trillion, and that is growing. That doesn't include the cost of long-term care of wounded veterans, over 50,000.

But the cost in money is nothing compared to the cost of lives. In Iraq, 4,400 dead, 36,000 wounded. In Afghanistan and still counting, 2,200 dead and 21,000 wounded.

I know my vote comes with a price. I know that. It is my understanding that

the same vote we make to train and fund the Syrian opposition forces will also be one to pass a CR to fund our government. I do not believe we should be forced to decide between funding our government and arming Syrian rebels in the same vote.

We should be ashamed for failing to pass appropriations bills to finance government operations for the fiscal year that starts 2 weeks from now, and more ashamed that for the sake of expediency—expediency because of an election coming up—that we are using a stopgap continuing resolution as a vehicle for authorizing major military activity that will have repercussions for generations to come.

Asking us to make this choice is a disservice to the American people. But if that is a decision I am forced to make—and I will say if that is a decision I am forced to make—it is one I am committed to making. I understand my vote will likely not be the deciding vote, but even if it were, I would still cast the same vote. I believe these votes should be separate and debated. We owe that to the American people. We have this time to do it. I believe with all my heart we have more than enough time to do this. I am prepared, as some of my colleagues, to stay in session so we can give the American people the debate and transparent transition they deserve.

We must learn from our past mistakes and we must not repeat them. I believe our country deserves this debate. Let me make it clear, I believe ISIS is a grave threat to the region and could become a direct threat to the United States. We must confront and defeat them. I just do not believe that arming the Syrian opposition forces is the correct approach, because I can foresee a Senate debate a few years from now—not that far off—I can see this coming about how to defeat the next group of Islamist terrorists we helped to train and install.

I have not come to this decision easily, and I know it comes with consequences, but I believe the people of West Virginia sent me to the Senate to make tough decisions and vote to do what is best for not only all West Virginians but for every American.

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

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

THE EROSION OF THE SENATE

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, it brings me no pleasure to make the remarks I feel compelled to make today. I think it is important for us to understand how we, the Senate of the United States, are operating.

The Senate—the legislative body heralded by the late Senator Robert C. Byrd as the second great senate in history, the first being the Roman Senate—is being eroded beyond recognition by the tactics utilized by Senate Majority Leader REID and those who support him in that process.

Today is Constitution Day. It was Senator Byrd who moved legislation to declare today Constitution Day. Under that Constitution, there are two bodies in the Congress, the House and the Senate, and the Senate has always been known as the body where great debates are held, with an open ability to amend and discuss, and the great issues of the day are laid out. That is what we are about.

But the Senate has changed dramatically since I have been in the Senate, some 18 years, and not for the better—not for the better of the American people. It might be good for politicians, but it is not good for the American people and it is not good for the public interest, in my view.

As has been happening time and again, we are once again today, at nigh on the eleventh hour, being asked to vote for a spending bill before we recess. We have to recess, you see. Why? So Senators can go home to campaign, but we are being paid, whether we are here or back home or vacationing or whatever. Why don't we stay a few days longer if necessary? Oh, no. We have to get out of Washington and go back home and campaign.

This continuing resolution, covering a massive amount of spending that no Member can fully comprehend at this late hour and nobody can meaningfully analyze, scrutinize or investigate—once again, we are being asked to fund the entire government of the United States in one catch-all bill, with no opportunity for a single amendment. There is no way to improve the legislation or to engage in meaningful consideration of our financial status.

Aren't we facing a crisis financially? Hasn't the Congressional Budget Office told us we are on an unsustainable financial path? Yes. Are we going to discuss that at all? No. We are going to bring up this bill, vote it through, and go home and campaign.

This denies the American people the opportunity to know what is being passed and to analyze and hold their elected representatives accountable for their actions. So the American people can't comprehend or study what is behind this massive bill either.

Once again, as a tactic, this bill is being rushed through under the threat of a government shutdown. Without a funding mechanism, the government would shut down October 1 if we don't pass an appropriations bill to fund it because the Government of the United States cannot operate and spend a dime Congress hasn't appropriated. That is a fundamental constitutional power.

Yes, there is a problem out there. How did it happen that we are getting toward the end of the session and nothing has been done? I will talk about that.

Why is this happening? Is it because we don't have time? No, it is not because we don't have time. The reality—and I will say this, and I have not been contradicted on it by any Member of this Senate, to my knowledge. It is not a lack of time. We haven't done anything this week or last week, and we have next week and the next week if need be. We can vote 20 times a day. It doesn't take a lot of time to vote. People can have their ideas to improve legislation and bring them up and argue for them and get an up-or-down vote, yes or no.

So why is this happening? The purpose is to protect Members from having to cast votes that their constituents might disagree with, to protect them from being placed on record one way or the other on important issues facing the Nation. That is the problem. It is politics first, sad to say. It just is.

We have not voted on a single appropriations bill in the Senate this year, not one. Not 1 of the 12 appropriations bills that are required to fund our government each year has come before the Senate. Committees are being bypassed, secret deals rule the day, and millions of Americans are thereby robbed of their ability to observe and participate in the legislative process. They are denied the ability to write their Senators and say: I hear you have an amendment coming up on thus and so. Vote for it or vote against it. That is all being eliminated in this process.

It has been so long since we followed the regular order, I think it is necessary for me to share with the people and our colleagues what is supposed to happen and what is not happening.

Each year Congress is supposed to pass a budget resolution which outlines the spending goals and limits for the upcoming year. Then, based on the spending levels contained in the budget resolution, the individual authorization committees are to report out authorization bills. For example, they are to review the Defense Department. We don't do that anymore. They are to review the Defense Department. We normally do a Defense authorization bill—but it hasn't been done this year—to authorize certain spending and policy changes, utilizing the expertise of the members of the committees to shape where the spending is supposed to go, laying out priorities, setting and making decisions about what we can afford and what we can't afford, evaluating whether programs are effective, to serve the citizens of the United States.

Isn't that what we are supposed to do? This is the way we eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse. This is the way we stop it.

After the authorization committees do their work, the Appropriations Committee actually is the one to fund the government. The subcommittees of the Appropriations Committee are tasked with producing appropriations bills for

each area of the budget, which are to be individually brought to the floor of the Senate, debated, and amended on the floor in the light of day before the American people. Each year the Senate is supposed to consider individually 12 appropriations bills. This gives each Member and their constituents a chance to review and analyze every line of the bill and to offer suggestions for saving money, improving efficiency, and better serving taxpayers—which we are failing to do and we need to do. We don't have a dime to waste, and we are wasting money regularly throughout our government, as anybody who has studied it knows.

Under the tenure of Senator REID, the budgeting process has been dismantled. We have only passed one budget in the last 5 years, although the Budget Act says we should pass a budget by April 15 every year. Our committees stand idle, and the floor is one run not for the high purpose of legislative debate but frankly as an extension of a Democratic political campaign committee.

So the Senate has ceased consideration of appropriations bills altogether, relying more and more on autopilot resolutions and catch-all continuing resolutions and omnibus spending packages.

When I first came to the Senate, almost every single Senate spending bill was debated. It was brought to the floor. A Senator was embarrassed if they didn't bring every bill to the floor. Sometimes they had two or three that couldn't be completed. They would be completed at the end and passed as an omnibus bill, and people would complain. Now none of them are passed—zero. We go year by year without debating a single stand-alone spending bill on the Senate floor. So a Senator has to ask, what are we here for?

One of the worst tactics the majority leader has used to suppress Senators' rights and block open debate is a technique called filling the tree. Under that tactic he uses his majority rights to keep Senators from offering amendments as representatives of their States and the American people.

Senator, a bill is coming on the floor, and you can't stand and give an amendment? Right, you cannot. He fills the amendment tree, we can't file another amendment, and he refuses to allow amendments to occur. His majority, having written the bill with President Obama—they move the legislation, and there is no real ability to challenge it.

It is not the way the Senate was supposed to be set up. The Senate was always to be set up to allow individual Senators and the minority rights to be able to influence legislation and to highlight what is in it.

Blocking amendments prevents this body from working its will, prohibits legislation from being improved, and protects Senators from being held accountable by the voters on the great issues of the day. I don't think there is any doubt about that. And that is the reason it is being done.

But we can do things the right way. It absolutely can be done. Members ought to be able to offer amendments. It just turns into a real debate, and people get to push for the agendas they believe in and advocate for their position. Who knows, 10 years from today an agenda not popular today will be popular then. That is the way we are supposed to do it. Senators being prohibited from offering amendments keeps the Senate from being a critical sounding board for the issues of the day.

Our majority leader has used this tactic, filling the tree, 90 times during his tenure. To put this in perspective, the 6 previous majority leaders filled the tree only 49 times, all total. Mr. REID has filled the tree on 40 more occasions than all 6 previous majority leaders. This stops amendments from being voted on, from being offered, and that is what is happening.

The majority leader has shut down one of the most important functions that Senators exercise to defend and advance the interests of their constituents.

It doesn't stop there. The Senate is supposed to be Washington's cooling saucer. That is why on many important and controversial matters 60 votes are required to adopt a measure or to confirm a nominee, and, importantly, to change the rules of the Senate requires a two-thirds vote to move such a question towards final passage.

That is, a two-thirds vote is required to change the rules of the Senate. Thus the two-thirds vote threshold is critical because it ensures the rules have meaning, they have power, they apply, and in years to come will not be likely changed, and protect minority rights in the Senate. The rules will apply when parties are in power and when they are out of power. To change Senate rules requires a broad consensus across the body. This protects the rights of individual Senators to be heard on the issues of the day. It is a key component of the Senate's heritage of discussion and debate and openness.

Yet Mr. REID, in an exercise of brute political force, last year changed the Senate rules by a simple majority vote. He ignored the counsel of the Senate Parliamentarian who ruled his tactic was contrary to the rules of the Senate. The Parliamentarian is our preeminent protector of Senate practices, and over the years different Parliamentarians have done a good job. In one stroke the majority leader changed the nature of this august body, perhaps forever.

So today the Democratic Senators who empower Mr. REID and the Senators who give him power and support him are not even allowed to consider important legislation either, effectively. Republicans or Democrats cannot offer amendments. They cannot even fully debate the issues. Huge bills are rushed through in the waning hours of a session. Systematically the rights of Senators to provide equal representation to each State are being dismantled.

But it gets worse still. As we know, President Obama has promised that after the midterms he would issue executive amnesty to 5 to 6 million people—immigrants who are unlawfully here, unlawfully entering the United States. This Executive order, Presidential order—fiat—amnesty—would include work permits for millions of illegal workers along with photo IDs and Social Security numbers, and it would include more guest workers. So businesses can bring in even more guest workers at a time of high unemployment and falling wages.

The President and the immigration lobbyists and business groups and activist groups are meeting secretly in the White House trying to implement through executive action the same disastrous, wrong policies that were rejected by Congress through the House of Representatives. The House said no to this. Once the public learned what was in the Senate amnesty and guest worker bill, they declared, no, no, no, and the House heard it. So the President is now conspiring to go around the Congress.

What did Mr. REID say? His duty is to represent the Congress, and we are a coequal branch with the executive branch and the executive branch doesn't have the power to change the immigration law that is in a law, in effect. The United States law says you cannot work in the United States—flat out, you cannot be hired if you are in the country illegally.

The President doesn't have any power to change that. The President can come back to the Senate and advocate it and see if he can pass that. But the Senate hasn't changed the law. You shouldn't be able to work in America if you are not lawfully here. Taking a job from a lawful immigrant? This is fundamentally wrong.

What does Mr. REID say about this? Does he defend the prerogative of Congress, the Senate? No, he doesn't. Instead, he has told the President to ''go real big'' and bypass Congress. Do the biggest amnesty you can do.

Majority Leader REID has blocked this Senate from considering the House-passed legislation that is sitting at the desk in this Senate that would stop the President from doing this. He would use legitimate congressional power to deny funding to execute any such bogus, unlawful amnesty plan. The Constitution and the American people's interests are at stake here. But Mr. REID is determined completely to ensure this executive amnesty happens anyway, and he is determined to do whatever he can to see that it does happen. The principles that govern our political system, separation of powers, and public debate are not important here at this time.

But, colleagues, I would note that we have to recognize Mr. REID does not operate all on his own. He operates with the support and empowerment of a Democratic Caucus that allows this to occur. We saw this vividly when I made a motion some weeks ago that would allow us to take action to stop the executive amnesty. I moved that we strike his filling the tree, remove it, clear the amendment tree, and allow new amendments to be brought up to stop executive amnesty. That would have been to bar the executive action, and every Senate Democrat voted with Mr. REID—except the Senator from West Virginia, Mr. MANCHIN—that would enable the President to go forward with his unlawful amnesty decree. It is unbelievable.

The posture we are in is the House has passed a bill that would stop the President from going forward, clearly. It has already passed the House of Representatives. It is sitting on our desk and the majority leader will not allow it to be brought up. Why?

He has the votes. Why doesn't he bring it up and vote it down? The reason is he wants to protect his Members. He believes in this policy. He is advocating this policy. But he thinks if he brings it up for a vote, his Members might find out that the people back home are not happy.

More than three-fourths of the American people believe the President is exceeding his authority if he goes forward with this executive amnesty. So why can't we have a vote on it? Because of politics. Protect our Members. They don't need to take tough votes. Let's get out of Washington and go home and play politics in our home State.

Nobody in the Senate Democratic Congress has spoken up to support the House bill. Some pretend or hope the President won't do it. What does that mean? Nothing.

But a vote means something. So let's vote. You are either for it or not.

Every Member who supports Mr. REID—and we will have another vote on this—is as much a supporter of President Obama's unlawful amnesty as if they were sitting in a room helping him sign the order.

This is the time. It is either stop now or it may never be stopped. We need to vote on it. People need to be held accountable. Every American needs to know where their Senator stands on the President's unlawful assumption of power to violate plain law of the United States to carry out a political agenda he has that the American people reject. It is that simple. It is about power and it is about politics and it is not about what is best for America.

All of us owe our constituents a full, open, and deliberative process where the great issues of the day are debated with their scrutiny and the people's scrutiny. We receive their input with our rights respected, our responsibilities honored, and our Senate strengthened in the process and respected in the process. The democratic process is messy sometimes, sometimes contentious, and often difficult, but it is precisely this legislative tug of war, this back-and-forth, which forges a national consensus. People have to stick their necks out and say what they believe on important issues facing America.

It is a process our Founders utilized, men of the Enlightenment they were, to find what truth is. Truth, they believe and I believe, is an objective reality. Words have meaning. Principles are valid. Things are true and things are false. Their theory was you have a full and open, robust debate and everybody says more through that process. It is the best way for you to tell what the truth is, and based on what the truth is you can make a good judgment for what is best for America. It is the same theory we use in jury trials: cross-examination of witnesses, bring in evidence, 12 good men and women judge the evidence in an attempt to find what the truth is.

Some of this crowd today, this postmodern group, they don't even believe in truth, if you want to know the truth. While secret deals may appear to keep the trains running on time, they also keep them running too often in the wrong direction. Only through a renewed, open legislative process carried out in the full light of day can we clean up this government, forge a real national consensus, confront the difficult choices we face, achieve accountability in Washington, allow our Senators and Congressmen to be there on the front lines and sink or swim on how they perform.

We are not guaranteed office. The American people don't work for us, we work for them, and to act as we have in the past returns power thereby to the everyday citizen.

It is time for us to restore once again the great Senate of the United States.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

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. TESTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quroum call be rescinded.

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

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, some of my colleagues will be coming to the floor later today to speak about the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and I am sorry I am not going to be able to join them, but LWCF is very important, especially to Montana, and so I want to make my voice heard this morning.

LWCF turned 50 earlier this month. Passed during the Johnson administration, LCWF harkens back to the time when folks reached across the aisle to conserve our treasured lands—treasured lands that exist in all corners of our Nation.

LWCF has contributed to the protection of well-known places such as Rocky Mountain National Park and the Appalachian Trail, but it has also supported lesser known but equally spectacular places such as Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee, Sawtooth National Recreation Area in Idaho, and the Flathead National Forest in my State of Montana.

America is filled with amazing lands that make us stand in awe of their beauty, make us want to go out and explore, make us want to hunt, fish, and camp. We must make sure they are preserved for our future generations to enjoy just as we have been able to enjoy it.

From hunters and anglers to ranchers and sporting goods store owners, LWCF is a program that simply works. It uses the funds from offshore oil and gas receipts for a wide array of conservation programs. Some of these programs increase access to public lands, others preserve natural resources.

LWCF is also good for the economy. When people want to get out and enjoy the outdoors, they buy fly rods, tents, and hiking boots. The list goes on and on. Simply put, LWCF is an economic driver. America's outdoor economy generates nearly $650 billion each year and supports nearly 6 million direct jobs in many of this Nation's smallest communities.

In Montana, a State with only 1 million people, outdoor recreation contributes nearly $6 billion each year to our economic output and supports some 64,000 jobs in Montana. Outdoor recreation is a part of who we are as Montanans, and when I drive across the State, I often see vehicles with stickers in the back window that say, ''Get Lost,'' but what those stickers are really saying is: I am headed to a trailhead and I am going to get lost in some of the wild places in Big Sky Country. This way of life is passed down from generation to generation and the LWCF helps us keep our outdoor heritage alive.

We have come to expect a vibrant outdoor economy and amazing places to explore, but we need to remember this didn't happen by accident. It isn't by chance that we get to enjoy water and breathtaking landscapes.

As one of my many heroes Teddy Roosevelt said: ''We are prone to speak of the resources of this country as inexhaustible, this is not so.''

We invest in our majestic national park system, preserve lands from Alaska to Florida, and we have millions of people dedicated to conservation nationwide. LWCF is a critical part of our conservation effort, and if it is not authorized, it will run out at the end of the next fiscal year. As of right now, LWCF will stop strengthening our economy as of October 1, 2015. We must fund and reauthorize LWCF so our treasured places can be preserved for another 50 years and well beyond.

There is still time to make sure this critical initiative continues and receives the full funding it needs. Full funding for LWCF is supported by both Republicans and Democrats.

I wish to commend Senators RICHARD BURR and LINDSEY GRAHAM for their work on LWCF, and I look forward to working with them on full funding for this issue.

I will also push my legislation that requires 1.5 percent of LWCF funds to go to increased public access to our public lands. Making public lands public is a smart bill, and I will continue to fight for it.

There is a strong coalition behind LWCF, and I believe we can get this done by working together. Along with leaders in both the House and the Senate, we will show the American people we are still capable of working across the aisle to preserve our treasured lands and support our local economies.

Montanans have favorite places to camp and fish and hike. It may be the Bitterroot, it may be the Crazies or it may be the Bob Marshall Wilderness, but we all love the outdoors. We all want to make sure our sons and daughters can enjoy the same beautiful outdoor places that we do today. This is our legacy.

LWCF is a critical part of making sure all Americans can continue their outdoor traditions. It must be around for another 50 years and beyond.

With that, I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam 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 JOHN R. BASS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

NOMINATION OF ERIC T. SCHULTZ, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

NOMINATION OF THOMAS FREDERICK DAUGHTON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

NOMINATION OF DAVID PRESSMAN TO BE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR

NOMINATION OF DAVID PRESSMAN TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS

NOMINATION OF DEBRA S. WADA TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

NOMINATION OF LAURA S. WERTHEIMER TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

NOMINATION OF BRADFORD RAYMOND HUTHER TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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

The bill clerk read the nominations of John R. Bass, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Turkey; Eric T. Schultz, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Zambia; Thomas Frederick Daughton, of Arizona, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Namibia; David Pressman, of New York, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador; David Pressman, of New York, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations; Debra S. Wada, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army; Laura S. Wertheimer, of the District of Columbia, to be Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency; and Bradford Raymond Huther, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

VOTE ON BASS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of John R. Bass, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Turkey?

There will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the nomination.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, we yield back the remaining time and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 267 Ex.]

YEAS—98

Alexander	Baldwin	Begich
Ayotte	Barrasso	Bennet

Blumenthal	Harkin	Murray
Blunt	Hatch	Nelson
Booker	Heinrich	Paul
Boozman	Heitkamp	Portman
Boxer	Heller	Pryor
Brown	Hirono	Reed
Burr	Hoeven	Reid
Cantwell	Inhofe	Risch
Cardin	Isakson	Roberts
Carper	Johanns	Rubio
Casey	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Chambliss	Johnson (WI)	Schatz
Coats	Kaine	Schumer
Coburn	King	Scott
Cochran	Kirk	Sessions
Collins	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coons	Landrieu	Shelby
Corker	Leahy	Stabenow
Cornyn	Lee	Tester
Crapo	Levin	Thune
Cruz	Manchin	Toomey
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (CO)
Durbin	McCain	Udall (NM)
Enzi	McCaskill	Vitter
Feinstein	McConnell	Walsh
Fischer	Menendez	Warner
Flake	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Graham	Moran	Wicker
Grassley	Murkowski	Wyden
Hagan	Murphy	

NOT VOTING—2

Gillibrand Rockefeller

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SCHULTZ NOMINATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time on this nomination be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Eric T. Schultz, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Zambia?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON DAUGHTON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Thomas Frederick Daughton, of Arizona, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Namibia?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON PRESSMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of David Pressman, of New York, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON PRESSMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of David Pressman, of New York, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON WADA NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Debra S. Wada, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON WERTHEIMER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Laura S. Wertheimer, of the District of Columbia, to be Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON HUTHER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Bradford Raymond Huther, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Arkansas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 503

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, last month we marked the 24th anniversary of the beginning of the gulf war. In August 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait. Shortly after this development the United States launched Operation Desert Shield, which led to Operation Desert Storm to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

Arkansas made a huge sacrifice during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The Arkansas Army National Guard had 13 units called to serve during these operations, and 10 units of the Arkansas Air National Guard were called up. More than 3,400 Arkansas Guard soldiers were called up altogether—the second highest percentage of any State. Of those Arkansans called to serve, nine of the Army Guard units served in combat, including the 142nd Field Artillery Brigade—the only National Guard artillery brigade called to Active Duty during the gulf war.

I thank all of the men and women—more than 600,000 Americans from across the United States—who served and sacrificed in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

These servicemembers deserve a place of honor and recognition in our Nation's Capital. My friend and colleague Senator DONNELLY and I have been working toward that goal. I am proud of my colleagues in the House who unanimously passed H.R. 503, the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act in May. I ask that we bring this bill up for final passage here in the Senate.

In a time where we are facing budget constraints, this bill is budget neutral. Private funds for construction of the memorial will be raised by the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association. This bill simply authorizes the establishment of a monument on Federal lands here in our Nation's Capital, which is what Congress needs to act on to honor all of those men and women of the Armed Forces and their families. Passing this bill will be a great step in honoring our gulf war veterans. I am grateful to have the support of the full Senate and look forward to a swift ultimate passage.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 403, H.R. 503. I further ask that the bill be read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, with a great deal of respect and deference to my good friend and an extraordinary Senator from Arkansas, I actually do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—H.R. 1033 AND H.R. 503

Mr. BOOKER. What I would like to do, because I fully support what an extraordinary and very important piece of legislation this is, honoring those who served and fought and fell in Desert Storm—what I object to is the decoupling of the two bills, both of which honor our veterans.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 398, H.R. 1033, the American Battlefield Protection Program Amendments Act, and Calendar No. 403, H.R. 503, the Desert Storm Memorial en bloc, that the committee-reported amendment to H.R. 1033 be agreed to, that the bills, as amended, if amended, be read a third time and passed en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, let me explain to the people watching what is happening here. We have a bill that everybody agrees to that is not going to get passed because everybody does not agree to another bill that is linked to it. We have offered multiple compromises on the battlefield protection act. We just have a $17.8 trillion deficit.

We are going to have a $599 billion debt this year. Yet this program they want to authorize that will keep this program that the Senator from Arkansas would like to honor our Desert Storm from happening—they refuse to take yes for an answer.

There are 26 critical sites that need to be protected that we know of. We said: Do that. We have said: Do not authorize more than we can afford. We will not do that. We have made compromises so that we can do what the intent of the battlefield protection act is and accomplish the leverage against the bill honoring our Desert Storm veterans. But that is not good enough. So what we have asked for is to quit allowing States and localities to game the system with any kind of pay-fors and do not have the Federal Government pay for the State's share or the local community's share plus the Federal Government's share. We have said some good government stuff.

You can pass this bill today if, in fact, they will take some adjustments to the bill. So what I would offer is rather than object, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from New Jersey modify his request so that my substitute amendment to H.R. 1033, which is at the desk, be agreed to.

If you agree to these simple, straight-forward, good government, financially secure items, you do not get the full basket, but you get the things that are critical to this country in terms of protecting battlefield sites and we will honor our Desert Storm veterans.

I ask that we have that modification be agreed to which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from New Jersey so modify his request?

Mr. BOOKER. There is no more eloquent a person when it comes to good government than Senator COBURN, but I do not modify my request. I object. I ask unanimous consent that the previous request I made be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. COBURN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, the sad thing is the people who were involved in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield are in the middle of this. We have this other bill that there are some concerns about. That is fine. That is what this place is all about. But the idea of holding the Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield bill hostage in this situation is not good. We live in an era of gridlock, and we have problems getting things done.

This bill passed the House unanimously and would pass the Senate unanimously. So I would hope that we can again get together and get things worked out. The reality is and the problem is that there is no reason to couple these two together. If the other bill has problems, it needs to be worked out. That is what it is all about. Let's have that discussion.

But the Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield bill has nothing to do with that. So I would hope that in the near future we can move forward and honor these 600,000 people who participated, so that one day their children can come and visit Washington and be able to look at the monument about which the committee will decide as to what is appropriate so that we can honor these individuals.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—CALENDAR NO. 12

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, 24 years ago, on July 26, 1990, President George Herbert Walker Bush, in a glorious sun-filled day on the White House lawn, attended by more people than had ever attended a bill signing in the history of our country—President Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act, a bill broadly supported by Democrats and Republicans here in the Senate and in the House.

It was a momentous occasion. You see, most people thought of civil rights as pertaining to people of color, religion, national origin, sex—that type of thing. But up until July 26, 1990, people with disabilities had no civil rights. I remember when President Bush signed that law, he uttered these words. He said: ''Let the shameful walls of discrimination come tumbling down.'' It was a wonderful day.

Looking back over those 24 years, can anyone deny that our country has made great progress in expanding our concepts of the rights of people with disabilities: the right to be educated and well educated; the right of people with disabilities to have independent living, to live on their own, not to be institutionalized; the right of people with disabilities to associate freely with others; the right of people with disabilities, children with disabilities, to go to school with other kids who are not disabled; the right of people with disabilities to travel freely with barriers broken down, ramps not stairs, buses that are fully accessible now, trains, everything accessible, every building designed in America. Think about that. Every building designed and built in America today is fully accessible.

We have gone a great way in making older buildings—even some of our national monuments—totally accessible to people with disabilities. People with disabilities are finding more and more employment. They are working—not at some minimum-wage job—but working alongside others, showing that they too can contribute to our society and be fully functioning members of our society.

That is what the Americans with Disabilities Act did for our country. In 1991 the United Nations decided that what we had done in America could be an example for the world. So a commission was established to draw up a convention, a treaty on the rights of persons with disabilities. I might point out, it was negotiated under the George W. Bush administration. It took several years, but it was hammered out with the concurrence—get this—with the concurrence and the approval of the George W. Bush administration.

That U.N. treaty has been sent out to nations to be ratified. Over 150 nations have now ratified it. Think about that. Of 196 members of the United Nations, 150 have already ratified it. One country is singularly absent—the United States—from whence it all started. If you look at the treaty—if you just read it—it just echoes the Americans with Disabilities Act language in what it does.

So I will have more to say about this later. But I just want to give that background. We brought it up 2 years ago for a vote. Now, under our Constitution, a treaty requires a two-thirds vote—two-thirds of those present and voting. It was brought up 2 years ago in December of 2012. We did not get a two-thirds vote. It failed. Well, that Congress ended and a new Congress started, so the President had to resubmit it. It had to go back to the committee, now under the leadership of Senator MENENDEZ.

As requested, the committee has reported out the bill again with new reservations, understandings, and declarations. Now it is incumbent upon the Senate to debate and vote again on this treaty.

I am hopeful we would have the votes this time—after due consideration over the past couple of years, that we would have the votes necessary.

The unanimous consent request I am about to proffer is the mirror image of the same one 2 years ago. I want everyone to understand that this unanimous consent request was not denied 2 years ago. We went ahead, debated, and we had a vote.

That is what this unanimous consent request would do, provide us with, again, 2 hours of debate, evenly divided in the usual form, and then an up-or-down vote. We have the time to do it.

I mean, what are we doing around here, one quorum call after another? People want to leave here tomorrow night. Two hours of debate, a vote, that is nothing to pass this momentous piece of legislation.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—TREATY NO. 112–7

I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 12, the disabilities treaty document No. 112–7 (disability); that the treaty be considered as having advanced through the various parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of the resolution of ratification; that any committee declarations be agreed to as applicable; that there be no amendments in order to the treaty or the resolution of ratification; that

there be 2 hours for debate, equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time the Senate proceed to vote on the resolution; that any statements be printed in the RECORD; that if the resolution of ratification is adopted, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that if the resolution is not adopted, the treaty be returned to the calendar, and that there be no motions or points of order in order other than a motion to reconsider; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Reserving the right to object, I wish to note that this is a treaty that has attracted a fair amount of controversy. It is a treaty that was voted on in 2012 and failed to receive the requisite two-thirds majority vote in order to be ratified in this body.

This treaty received additional consideration this year in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on July 22 and received a 12-to-6 vote. There are a number of our colleagues, both on and off the committee, who have concerns with this treaty, who would like the opportunity to propose amendments, along with our consideration of this document. Under the proposed unanimous consent request, we would not be allowed to propose any amendments, and we would be given 2 hours—only 2 hours—to debate it.

Given the significance of treaties, and the fact that they carry the effect of the law of the land once ratified, I think this body deserves more, certainly, than the opportunity to debate it for only 2 hours. To be precluded here from the ability to present any amendments would not be an appropriate thing for to us do.

On that basis, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, this is another sad, irresponsible day in the Senate. I say to my friend from Utah, he was here 2 years ago when we proposed the same exact unanimous consent request, and the Senator did not object.

It also did not allow for any amendments. That is usual when we have treaties and it comes through the committee. So why is the Senator from Utah objecting today to even doing what we did 2 years ago? Maybe he has the votes to defeat it. I don't know. We won't know until we vote on it. But 2 years ago, the Senator from Utah did not object to the very same unanimous consent request.

He says there has been a lot of controversy about it. Well, that is not so. The only controversy has been raised by the tea party and some whom I call the black helicopter crowd, people who just don't like the United Nations. I don't care if they like the United Nations; that is up to them. But it seems to me we ought to at least bring it up again, debate it, and see if anyone has changed their minds. We have new people in the Senate who were not here 2 years ago—new Senators who have not had the opportunity to express themselves on this treaty.

I disagree with my friend from Utah. There is no controversy over this, basically. Controversy? This is a treaty supported by former President George H.W. Bush. Former President George W. Bush, former President Carter, and former President Clinton all support it. All the veterans groups support it. The American Legion, VFW, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and Vietnam war veterans all strongly support ratification of this treaty.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has supported it strongly—and I don't just mean leaning back. Tom Donohue, the head of the Chamber of Commerce, has written, has called people about how important it is to the business community that we ratify it.

Former Governor John Engler, who is now the head of the Business Roundtable, brought this up to the Business Roundtable and they unanimously supported our ratification of this treaty.

I spoke to the Business Roundtable group last evening, and they all—the ones I talked to individually—couldn't understand why we would block this treaty because it is good for business, and they understand it.

It is supported by the Information Technology Industry Council—that is AT&T. I just spoke with the CEO of AT&T last evening who strongly supports it; Sprint, Adobe, Microsoft—all the high-tech people—because they understand we need strong, accessible standards for their products and their software across the globe.

All disability groups, every single disability group in America supports the treaty. Faith-based groups across the spectrum support it.

Senator Bob Dole has worked his heart out on getting votes to ratify this treaty. He has been on the phone, he has made appearances, and we have Republicans on it. Senator MCCAIN has been a strong supporter for this treaty from the very beginning. Senator MARK KIRK is a supporter. Mr. KIRK is a veteran himself.

We had a press conference with all the veterans groups here not too long ago and I thought Mr. KIRK said something very poignant. He said: A lot of disabled American veterans fought in places around the world to secure our freedom. They should have the right to travel freely in other parts of the world, even though they have a disability.

Think about that.

Senator BARRASSO is a strong supporter, and Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator COLLINS, Senator AYOTTE have all worked hard on this subject. But for a couple of people who have raised an objection, we can't bring up the treaty.

The Senator from Utah just objected to bringing it up for, what, 2 hours of debate and an up-or-down vote. I say: Hey, look around the Chamber. There is nobody here. There won't be anybody here all afternoon. We could have a little debate on this, 2 hours; they could make their case, we could make our case and have a vote for 15 minutes—and yet the Senator from Utah will not let it be brought up, even though he let it be brought up 2 years ago. He said: Well, we can't offer amendments. That was the same 2 years ago, but they didn't object to bringing it up.

When we see all of the support this has—and I might address an issue that has come up, and it seems to have its genesis in the tea party. They have raised objections on the basis that somehow, by ratifying this treaty, we give up our sovereignty as a nation, that it erodes our sovereignty. That is based upon the fact that there is a commission under this treaty. There is a U.N. commission set up, a 16-member commission of experts, to draft standards and advise countries on what they need to do to meet their obligations.

Again, if we are a signatory to the treaty, I have no doubt we would get a seat on that commission, and the high-tech industry council and the business groups know that. That is where we have our input to making sure that accessibility standards, software standards, and other things are adaptable for us, our business community, our software, and our hardware.

The tea party, some of these people, have objected to this commission, saying that the commission can issue findings and such that take away our sovereignty.

We have operated, at least for the past 20 years, under two other treaties that have the same kind of commission of experts, and it hasn't eroded our sovereignty. Do you know why? Because it is advisory. That commission has no authority to assess penalties or anything else on the United States or any other country. All they can say is: Well, you should do this, you should do that—but it is only advisory. How does that erode our sovereignty?

Yet the very same people who make the argument that somehow this erodes our sovereignty will rush to the front to vote on a trade agreement—a trade agreement such as NAFTA or other trade agreements we have, which do erode our sovereignty, because it turns over to the World Trade Organization the ability to fine America, to tell us what we have to do in order to make trade right. They have the ability to tell America what to do. Yet my friends who are objecting to this probably support those trade agreements.

Yet when it comes to people with disabilities, why is it they are so adamant that we cannot join 150 other nations of the world to advance the rights of people with disabilities globally? Why is it just people with disabilities they focused on?

They didn't focus on torture, they didn't focus on the worst forms of child labor, they haven't focused on any of

our trade agreements. Why people with disabilities? It makes us wonder, is this another blatant form of discrimination against people with disabilities?

Maybe some in that tea party would like to undo the Americans with Disabilities Act. I don't know. But we can't say honestly that, yes, the Americans with Disabilities Act is good, it has done a lot of good for our country, for our business community, for people with disabilities, everyone, and say but we don't want to be involved in helping other countries advance the cause of people with disabilities so people with disabilities in other countries have the same kind of rights, accessibilities, and standards we enjoy in this country for people with disabilities.

Some people may say we are the best in the world on disability law and policy—and that is true, we are—so why don't we shine our light around the world?

President Reagan always referred to America as the ''shining city on the hill.'' If we are a shining city on the hill and no one can get there and we are not willing to help other countries, what does it mean to be a shining city on the hill? Is that some kind of an idea that only we can have? We are a shining city on the hill when it comes to disability rights, and we ought to be involved in spreading it globally. This is our opportunity to do so.

Some people say: We can work with other countries. If they want our advice, we can go to other countries to help them with disability policy. Think about that for a second. We don't have the personnel or the wherewithal to go to 150 separate different countries to help them in terms of changing policy. It takes a kind of collective action where we can join with other countries that have done pretty darned well. There are a lot of other countries that have done very well in disability policy. To join with them, we are much better and much stronger that way than us just going to another country.

I was in China earlier this summer meeting with people about this treaty, which China has adopted. They have signed on. We talked about the United States working with China, not only in China but with other countries, to help advance the rights of people with disabilities.

China is doing some interesting things. They are starting to move ahead.

One person said to me: What is so important about America being a part of the treaty is that when we speak to one another, we speak in a common language of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. It seems to me that if the United States is not a part of it, they speak to us in a different manner. It is: The United States, here is what we do; here is what you ought to do. That doesn't get us very far in diplomacy.

But if we work with the Chinese and other countries to say: Here is what we ought to do, here is what other countries have done, here are the standards we ought to abide by, there is much more force and effect than if we try to go it alone.

I assume there are military analogies to this. Think about the present situation. Should we go it alone simply because we are the most powerful, we have the biggest military, the best weapons, and everything else? Should we just go it alone because we are the best militarily in the world? I don't think the American people would want that.

We have to join with other countries and sometimes ask other countries to take the lead and we will provide that strong backbone. That is how I see the disabilities treaty. We have to join with other countries.

How can we give up the moral leadership we have had on this issue, both here and abroad, the moral leadership we have had on advancing the rights of people with disabilities?

How can we abdicate that because a handful of people are afraid of giving up our sovereignty—which is a bogus argument because that committee is advisory only. It makes recommendations, but it has no enforcement authority whatsoever.

By not ratifying this treaty, we are left behind. Think about that. We, the United States, are left behind in a field in which we have carved out leadership, and we are just going to give it up: No, we don't want to lead the world.

Why wouldn't we want to lead the world in disability policies? To not join 150 other countries, to not provide the leadership, to not provide the expertise we have developed over 24 years or more relinquishes our responsibility to people with disabilities, both in America and around the world. Why on Earth would we want to do that?

In Ghana, a great young advocate named Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah, a man born with no left leg but determined as a child to play soccer, turned his obsession for this sport into an obsession advocating for the rights of people with disabilities in Ghana.

Earlier this year in Malawi, 21 African nations met on this issue of changing their policies, advancing the rights of people with disabilities. I was asked to go and meet with them. I couldn't because we were in session in the Senate. But that is why they are reaching out to us. They want us to be involved with them to help move this issue forward.

In Nepal parents of children with autism banded together to start their own school to educate their children. They want their kids with disabilities to be fully included in society and have opportunities for work and for life. They want us to be joined together with them. It is conspicuous.

I was privileged to join Senator CARDIN earlier this summer in Baku, Azerbaijan, for a meeting of the committee for security and economic development in Europe. I offered an amendment putting all the nations of Europe that are in that OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development—OECD countries—that we supported ratification of this treaty. It was adopted unanimously. They want the United States to be a partner in this effort.

Talk to a disabled veteran who would like to travel overseas maybe with his or her spouse and their children.

I recently talked to a mother whose family immigrated from Italy. She wanted to go over for a big family reunion, but she has a child with a disability, and where they were going they had no accessibility. She could have gone and left her son at home, but she couldn't do that. So she missed that big family reunion because of the lack of accessibility in Italy.

It is a sad day that one individual on the Senate floor would object to bringing this up when it has such broad support.

I will say one last thing about the issue of sovereignty. I have heard a couple Senators on the Republican side talk about the fact that with this Commission, we give up our sovereignty, which I have said is a bogus argument.

Of my friends on the other side, the few who have objected to this on the grounds that we would lose our sovereignty, let me ask this question.

Former President George H.W. Bush supports this treaty wholeheartedly. Does he not understand about sovereignty or does he not care about sovereignty?

Former President George W. Bush, under whose administration this treaty was hammered out, supports it. Does former President George W. Bush not understand this or does he just not care about our sovereignty?

Bob Dole knows this treaty backward and forward—a World War II hero, Presidential candidate, Republican leader of the Senate, disabled American veteran.

Are those few people over there who say this would erode our sovereignty saying they know more than Senator Dole or are they saying Senator Dole doesn't care about our sovereignty—which is it—or those few who raise the issue of sovereignty, that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce doesn't care about our sovereignty? I don't think we would like to say that to Tom Donohue or to John Engler at the Business Roundtable. Of course they care about our sovereignty. Tell that to the American Legion. Tell the American Legion they don't care about our sovereignty or they don't understand this or they are too stupid to understand it. Is that what they are saying or are they saying they are the arbiters—those few, they are the arbiters of what is and is not our sovereignty. They rise above all former Presidents. They rise above Republican leaders. They rise above JOHN MCCAIN, a war hero. Believe me, I think JOHN MCCAIN understands about our sovereignty. He knows this treaty. He supports it wholeheartedly. Are

those few who raise this issue of sovereignty saying JOHN MCCAIN doesn't get it or he doesn't care about our sovereignty? Which is it? The fact is, JOHN MCCAIN does care about our sovereignty, he does get it, and he knows this doesn't erode our sovereignty one single iota.

But I wish to make that point because those few keep raising this issue of sovereignty as though they are the guardians, they alone know what distinguishes our sovereignty and what erodes it—not former Presidents, former Republican leaders. In fact, every former Republican leader of this Senate still alive supports this treaty.

My, how far we have gotten off track since the adoption of the Americans with Disabilities Act that was strongly bipartisan and the Americans with Disabilities Act amendments we put through in 2008, strongly supported by both sides. I dare say, we have strong Republican support for this treaty but for a few on the Republican side who just want to adhere to that tea party nostrum that somehow this erodes our sovereignty and we can't join.

I will close where I started. The unanimous consent I offered today that was objected to by the Senator from Utah is the same as what we had 2 years ago and no one objected to it. The Senator from Utah was here 2 years ago, and he didn't object then to the same unanimous consent request. He did not object. So it goes back on the calendar. It goes back on the Executive Calendar and it will be there.

I guess I would say the action by a few on the Republican side blocking ratification of the convention on the rights of people with disabilities will not be the end. I may be retiring from the Senate, but I am not retiring from this fight. I will never retire in the fight for justice, fairness, and equality for people with disabilities both here and around the world. I will never retire from the fight to refute those absolutely unfounded and bogus objections to this crucial treaty.

I will continue to work with former Senator Bob Dole, with former Presidents, with veterans, with business leaders, with Republicans on the other side who support this treaty, with the national disabilities community, with our disabilities community. I will continue to work to advance this and to get it over the hurdle.

The false claims—the false claims—of those who object to this treaty will be overcome. We will succeed in ratifying this treaty. We will restore America's stature as the world leader on disability rights and we will continue to fight for justice and a fair shake for people with disabilities not just here in America but around the world.

It is a sad day, another sad and irresponsible day in the history of the United States Senate.

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

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

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. DONNELLY. I rise today in recognition of Suicide Prevention Month to once again bring attention to an issue that weighs heavy on many of our hearts and minds.

Last month the world paused to mourn the loss of a man who brought laughter and joy to countless lives, a man whose internal suffering didn't stop him from improving the lives of so many he touched, including our heroic men and women serving overseas. Robin Williams said the best audience he ever had was with the troops he entertained on USO tours. His death showed us that we may not always know who among us is living the life of unbearable pain and suffering. Even the strongest among us sometimes needs a helping hand, including the brave men and women in uniform who protect our country each and every day.

Today I wish to once again shine the light on the scourge of military suicide. Earlier this month the Department of Defense released a report which detailed the number of suicides among servicemembers during the first quarter of 2014. The Department of Defense reported that a total of 120 servicemembers committed suicide from January through March, including 74 active component servicemembers, 24 Reserve members, and 22 National Guard members. In 2013, 475 servicemembers took their own lives. In 2012, we lost 522 to suicide. We have seen 2 straight years of more deaths as a result of suicide than of combat in Afghanistan.

These men and women are giving their all to support our way of life and they risk making the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms. At a minimum we should honor this service and sacrifice by doing all we can to support them.

We all understand this is not a simple issue. There is no one solution to the problem, no cure-all that ends it tomorrow. I do believe, though, there are commonsense steps we can take now to make meaningful progress.

In May I introduced the bipartisan Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act of 2014. This legislation is named after Jacob Sexton, an Indiana National Guardsman from Farmland, IN, who took his own life while home on a 15-day leave from Afghanistan. Building upon legislation I introduced last year, the Sexton act ensures that mental health is evaluated regularly and is a central element of a servicemember's overall readiness in four key ways.

First, it requires annual mental health assessments for all servicemembers, including active duty, the Guard, and the Reserves. Right now the military provides the most effective mental health care only for those who are preparing for or returning from deployment, despite research that shows the majority of military suicides occur among servicemembers who have never been deployed.

Second, it establishes a working group between the Department of Defense and the Department of Health and Human Services to find innovative ways to improve access to mental health care for members of the Guard and Reserve. Where servicemembers often rely on civilian health insurance and providers, as the Guard and Reserve do, we want to team up to be able to provide care right in their own communities. Suicide among Guard members hit a record high in 2013, and we are committed to bringing that number down to zero.

Third, the bill requires an interagency report to evaluate existing military mental health practices and to provide recommendations for improvement, including peer-to-peer programs I have proposed in the past.

Finally, the bill ensures that seeking help remains a sign of strength. It protects the privacy of the servicemember coming forward, because no one should be punished for seeking help. No one should be kept from their next promotion for seeking help.

I introduced the bipartisan Sexton act with my Republican colleague ROGER WICKER of Mississippi. Since then it has received the endorsement of numerous national organizations, including the National Guard Association of the United States, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. This bill is a step in the right direction in the fight against military suicide.

I was encouraged when the Senate Armed Services Committee passed this legislation as part of the fiscal year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act this past May. This is important progress, but we need to get this legislation signed into law. As the Senate prepares to recess, I call on the Senate to take up the NDAA as soon as we return to Washington. There is no reason why this bipartisan legislation should not be passed, and passed quickly, just as we have for the last 52 years.

Our country, as we all know, is faced with many serious issues, some of which we don't have good answers to yet; but the Sexton act is a good start to address the pressing issue of military suicide. This legislation helps save lives—helps save soldiers' lives. So let's pass the NDAA and with it the Jacob Sexton Act to show our service men and women that we are all in on supporting them the same way they support us.

This legislation is just the beginning. Combating suicide both in our military and elsewhere is an issue that continues to demand Congress's attention. We must continually evaluate what we

are doing, take a second and third look at the resources we are offering, and ask ourselves every day: Can we do better? Is there more we can do before it is too late? The answer more often than not is yes.

That is why we must be vigilant in the effort to let people know they are not alone. There is somewhere they can go, someone to talk to, and someone to help carry the load. We need to continue the conversation about what we can do to help our brothers and sisters, our sons and daughters, our husbands and wives, who may feel like they are struggling with seemingly insurmountable challenges all by themselves. These challenges can be overcome.

Suicide Prevention Month is a reminder of that fact. There are many resources available to those who struggle with suicidal thoughts. For our servicemembers, trained mental health specialists are available 24 hours a day through the military and Veterans Crisis Line. All you have to do is call 1–800–273–8255, and press 1. You will get immediate, confidential assistance 24 hours a day. For additional help, militarymentalhealth.org offers a free, 100-percent anonymous mental health assessment. This is a valuable tool for servicemembers unsure of where they stand.

I hope all of our servicemembers struggling with mental health concerns and with challenges know that we are here for them and that we are working nonstop to ensure they receive the care and support they deserve. Let's continue to spread that message throughout the rest of Suicide Prevention Month, and every month thereafter.

I yield the floor and 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. PORTMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. PORTMAN pertaining to the introduction of S. 2839 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

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

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

ANGELS IN ADOPTION

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, it is my pleasure today to come to the floor of the Senate to honor some very special constituents from all of our States who are here for 3 days, and they are very special because they actually have wings. We call them angels, and I think the Presiding Officer has met her angels who are here this week. They are Members who have been honored or constituents of ours who have been honored by Members of the Senate and Members of the House for the extraordinary work these individual citizens and sometimes entities and organizations have done on behalf of orphans here in the United States and around the world. There are happily over 124 angels here with us, 124 Members of Congress—70 Members of the House and 54 Members of the Senate—who took the time to identify someone in their district or State who has really stepped up for orphans through either the domestic adoption and foster care system or our international adoption world.

I am proud of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption. I am one of the founders of the organization. About 16 years ago a group of about 20 of us came together to begin really focused work on educating ourselves first and then our colleagues across the aisle and in both Houses of Congress on the barriers that were keeping children from families, the barriers that were causing children to be left and abandoned, never to be reunited with their birth families or ever placed with new families who could adopt them. We struggled to learn and educate ourselves about why families break up and disintegrate and what is the proper approach after that happens to try to pull that family back together and if not, how we can place children in homes where they can be raised and nurtured and cared for.

You heard me say this many times: Governments do some things very well—some things not so well—but raising children is not one of them. Parents, responsible adults, raise children. It is the way we are wired. It is the way we are created. It is the only real way that ever works well. I believe our job at the Federal, State, and local level, both here in the United States and around the world, is for the government to get out of the way and let this happen or start leading and helping with the kinds of policies that help children reunite with birth families and if that is not possible, to move quickly—because time is of the essence in a child's development—to make sure that child and sibling groups are placed in a loving, supportive family and not in an institution—not necessarily with people who are paid to be parents, not necessarily in group homes, but in real families. Sometimes governments, nonprofits, and charitable individuals want to help with stipends to support that effort. We perfectly understand that. It is perfectly legal. But we really love children to be in homes where they feel they are being loved out of a gift of love, and that is our goal.

There is so much gridlock and arguing going on. This is one issue about which there is no gridlock and no argument. Republicans and Democrats have come together. JIM INHOFE and I are proud to serve as the leaders in the Senate with many Members who have been very active. The Presiding Officer has been extremely active. I wish to say thank you to the Senator from Wisconsin for her leadership on several pieces of important legislation. I would like to give a special shout-out to the Senator from Minnesota, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, who has been remarkable in her leadership; Senator GILLIBRAND, who has been extremely helpful; Senator SHAHEEN; Senator BLUNT; Senator BOOZMAN; and I could go on. There have been 20 or 25 real champions this year in the Senate on issues that affect orphans and children in foster care. Senator GRASSLEY, who leads the foster care caucus, has also been a very reliable advocate on behalf of these children.

To frame the challenge, there are about 500,000 children in the United States who are in foster care. About 100,000 have been deemed to be adoptable. Parental rights have been terminated due to gross neglect, abuse, et cetera. The courts have stepped in and said these children need a new home, new parents. That is a big number, 500,000, but it represents about one-half of 1 percent of all the children in America. From that standpoint, you can say America is doing pretty well with keeping all of our children in families, keeping them loved and supported. When families fail, the community, the government, and churches and places of worship need to step in and help and be supportive.

But we still have many problems. Some children are waiting too long. Some children are born in this country without birth certificates—I just met one in my office today, if you can imagine that—so their legal status has been compromised. There are millions of orphans around the world who don't have any advocacy and don't have the kinds of systems we have in the United States to help with their identification, their rescue, their placement, et cetera, so that is the work we do.

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption educates Members of Congress. We hold seminars for ourselves, educational opportunities. We hold an annual gala, and this year the Angels In Adoption gala is happening tonight in Washington. Angels are visiting Senate offices, telling their stories of adoption to our Members. Tonight we will be at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center celebrating with almost 1000 people the work our angels are doing.

I wish to congratulate our three very special national award winners: adoptive parents Bill Klein and Dr. Jennifer Arnold, the stars of the TLC reality show ''The Little Couple.'' They are very famous in America and well-known around the world. People have watched them overcome the great challenges they face. They are very tiny but have great hearts and great minds, and by being on television, they have an extraordinary reach. We are all very familiar with their show. They are married and have proceeded to build a family through adoption. They adopted a little, little child from India and another little child from China and are building their family. They have just

been remarkable models for all adoptive parents, of which I am one. They share the joys and challenges of being adoptive parents of children with very special physical needs.

It has just been remarkable. We will be so touched by their story tonight. They just left my office and they will share their story with us tonight. I just wanted to thank them for their leadership.

Shonda Rhimes is not with us in Washington. She will be receiving an award. She is the executive producer of the hit shows ''Scandal,'' ''Private Practice,'' and ''Grey's Anatomy.'' She has been a tremendous advocate for adoption. She has written about some issues regarding adoption into her shows and has helped to educate the United States of America and the world about the needs of orphans and the great privilege of being adoptive parents.

Finally, our third national award winner is our Paul Singer awardee. Paul Singer is deceased, but he was a great leader in our corporate world and our organization gives an award every year to a corporate executive. This year our winner is Debra Steigerwaldt Waller, CEO of Jockey International. She founded an organization that really helps provide support with postadoption services because many of our adoptive families have adopted children with special needs and some have adopted teenagers or older children. There are all sorts of challenges that come with those adoptions, just as there are with infant adoptions, and those families need someplace to turn. She stepped up as a corporate leader and adoptee herself, and we are thankful for her leadership.

I wish to mention two other angels.

I see my colleague is on the floor ready to speak.

I ask unanimous consent for 5 additional minutes.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I was proud to nominate Pastor Chad Hardbarger and his wife Marsha. They served as foster parents in Louisiana for over 9 years. Amazingly, the couple has cared for 14 children from the foster care system and have adopted 6 of those children out of foster care. They have a 19-year-old, a 14-year-old, an 11-year-old, a 9-year-old, an 8-year-old, and a 7-year-old. They are in the process of adopting a special infant named Amber. All of them are here in Washington and have had a great tour of the city today.

Monique, Chris, Bryce, Jordan, Bailey, Gavyn, and Amber are a wonderful family that was brought together and into the loving home of Pastor Chad and his wife Marcia. They are now working with their local church in Shreveport—in the northwest Louisiana area—to help advocate and get other churches and other families involved in fostering and adopting.

I was so pleased to present the award to the senior pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church. He has established his own ministry, Fashioned for a Home, and he does so many great things to help our children.

These children don't have any fancy lobbyists or PR firms fighting for them. The pastors at home, their wives, and advocates are the ones who are doing a beautiful job. Congratulations to Chad Harbinger and his wife Marsha. I was so moved when I met Senator WICKER's angel at the pinning ceremony, and he was such an interesting angel that I wanted to put his story in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Senator WICKER nominated Mendell L. Thompson, who has been president of America's Christian Credit Union in Glendora, CA, serving more than 48,000 members and has more than $500 million in managed assets.

He serves as trustee and director of several different organizations. He received his award from Senator WICKER for designing a loan package at the credit union that would provide low-interest loans to families that were adopting, because sometimes the expenses can be overwhelming, particularly if you are adopting internationally but even if you adopt out of foster care. The foster care costs are minimal, but there are other costs when you adopt a child. Sometimes they have to add a room to the house or get a special vehicle if they have adopted a special-needs child. He has made over 1,000 loans to families that have adopted children.

I wanted to give a shout-out to Senator WICKER's angel, Mr. Mendell L. Thompson, and his board of directors at America's Christian Credit Union in California and thank them for believing that every child deserves a forever family and for taking an active role in crafting an affordable solution for America's adoptive parents. He has a passion at heart for the miracle of adoption and continues to promote this in California and around the country.

I thank the members for their participation. It is going to be one of our biggest events.

Before I take my seat, Madam President, I wish to speak on one more topic.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND SAMUEL R. BLAKES

Madam President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Rev. Samuel Raymond Blakes, pastor of New Home Family Worship Center in New Orleans, LA on his 19th pastoral anniversary. I was honored to participate in the recent anniversary celebration and worship alongside members of the congregation and friends.

Reverend Blakes is a graduate of St. Augustine High School. He attended Southern University at New Orleans and earned both a bachelors and master's degree in theology from Christian Bible College in Louisiana.

Rev. Blakes has devoted himself to New Home Family Worship Center where he has served as pastor since 1995. Through his leadership, the congregation of New Home has expanded to a membership of over 10,000 worshipers. Reverend Blakes remains committed to making a positive impact on the lives of all people through his weekly televised spiritual broadcasts, live radio show and ongoing community outreach.

Rev. Samuel R. Blakes is the youngest son of the late Prophet Robert C. Blakes, Sr. and Minister Lois R. Blakes, both residents of New Orleans for decades. Prophet Blakes was an outstanding community leader, spreading his ministry across Louisiana and into Texas.

I commend Reverend Blakes and his congregation for remaining vigilant, faithful and steadfast in his service to his community. I join his wife Stacey, daughter Sariah and the entire New Home Family Worship Center congregation in celebrating his 19th pastoral anniversary. I pray that Rev. Samuel R. Blakes will continue to be blessed with many more years as a spiritual leader.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 3522

Mr. VITTER. Recently the House of Representatives passed, on a bipartisan basis, H.R. 3522, the Employee Health Care Protection Act by Congressman BILL CASSIDY. This bipartisan act that passed the House would keep the President's core promise throughout the ObamaCare debate when he told every American: If you like the health care coverage you have, you can keep it—period, end of story. I am bringing this up in the Senate because it is vital that the President, and everyone who made that pledge, keep that promise, and the bill that was enacted into law would do that.

Again, the bill is limited, focused, and straightforward. It lets small businesses and workers keep their health care coverage if they like it. It provides more affordable health care options for American workers who don't want or can't afford the other ObamaCare mandated plans.

Again, the President and every Democrat who voted for ObamaCare promised that explicitly again and again and again. When that didn't happen—when millions of Americans were kicked off the plan they had and liked and wanted to keep—Americans rightly felt misled. In fact, that led to the President's promise and commitment ''if you like your plan, you can keep it'' being labeled by nonpartisan sources in 2013 as the ''lie of the year.'' This bill would fix that and make it good. It would not repeal ObamaCare. It would fix that part of ObamaCare. It would make that promise good.

The keep your plan bill would let insurers continue to sell those plans that people want to keep that are less expensive and cover basic but crucial needs. At least 2 million people would likely sign up for these plans.

Last fall nearly 5 million Americans all across the country had their health

plans canceled even though they wanted to keep them—even though the President told them they could keep them. In Louisiana, 93,000 received cancellation notices after getting that clear pledge and promise from the President and other supporters of ObamaCare.

Sadly, that hurt isn't over because the employer mandate for businesses that employ 100 or more workers is still coming. When that mandate kicks in in just a few months, we are going to see the same thing happen all over again with millions upon millions of Americans in Louisiana and in every single State getting pushed off the plan they had, they liked, and they wanted to keep. Small businesses are losing the plans they had, they liked, and they wanted to keep.

The bill passed the House, as I said, on a bipartisan basis, 247 to 167, and over 2 dozen Democrats voted to support this bill by Congressman BILL CASSIDY. Even Democrats on the House side see the importance of the legislation.

I ask all of us to recognize this is a crucial element of ObamaCare that needs to be fixed. It absolutely needs to be fixed. Thirty-nine Democrats in the House had previously voted for a similar bill to let Americans keep their plan in the individual market. Senate Democrats scrambled with the administration last year to find some way to let individuals who faced cancellations on the individual market keep their plan, but those cancellations are happening to a lot of folks. It has not been fixed for all those folks by a long shot, and more of those sorts of cancellations are on the way when the employer mandate finally hits.

I urge all of us to come together to pass this bill in the Senate as it has been passed on a bipartisan basis in the House.

With that, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3522, which was received from the House. I further ask consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Reserving the right to object, just bear with me. As the Senator knows, the President set forth a policy to let States, such as Louisiana, take advantage of this opportunity—through the work of the insurance commissioner—to allow those individuals to stay on their plans.

This bill would allow new plans to be offered that do not comply with the ACA—plans that would include the kind of discriminatory treatments that the ACA seeks to cure, such as higher costs for women than men and treatments that are discriminatory against individuals with preexisting conditions. For that reason, Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, reclaiming the floor——

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. I think this is very unfortunate. My distinguished colleague alluded to what I know. Let me tell you what I know. I know 93,000 Louisianians were forced off a plan they had, they liked, and they wanted to keep. I know the President of the United States promised them exactly the opposite. I know my Louisiana colleague in the Senate promised them exactly the opposite, and I know thousands of more cancellations are on their way when the employer mandate is enforced. That is what I know.

I hold hundreds of townhall meetings in Louisiana, and that is what I know from talking to Louisianians, and that is why I know this is the central problem of ObamaCare and it needs to be fixed.

The bill passed the House on a bipartisan basis. I find it very unfortunate that we can't bring it up in the Senate on the same basis and pass it expeditiously.

With that, I yield the floor.

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

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

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT AND THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, this month America celebrates the 50th anniversary of both the Wilderness Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I am going to spend a few minutes today—and I believe I am going to be joined at various times by a number of colleagues—to talk about the important role these two storied pieces of legislation have played in creating a legacy of protection and access to America's treasures.

First, people may not remember, perhaps given the way some in Congress talk about wilderness these days, but the Wilderness Act had an extraordinary bipartisan push behind it. It passed 73 to 12 in the Senate and 373 to 1 in the other body. Then congressional champions included leading Democrats and Republicans of that time. To celebrate the success of this landmark piece of legislation today—and it is the middle of Wilderness Week—I introduced a Senate Resolution, along with our colleague on the other side of the aisle, Senator SESSIONS, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Wilderness Act.

Just like the original bill, our bipartisan resolution has numerous cosponsors and the support of our colleagues from both sides of the aisle. Part of the beauty of the Wilderness Act lies in the balance that was forged between immediately designating some places as wilderness in 1964 as part of the enactment, while providing a pathway for future designation.

It is that balance that has helped to make the Wilderness Act one of our country's most democratic pieces of legislation in our rich history. By requiring future legislation, it compelled citizen activists to go out at the grass roots level to involve their friends and neighbors to seek permanent protection for the special places that were important to them.

While passing wilderness designations through Congress has been far from easy, the reward has been extraordinary.

Since the act was signed, Congress has designated more than 110 million acres of Federal lands as wilderness and each acre a gift to our future from our past selves.

Next to me a few of those acres are in a photo of Mirror Lake and Mount Hood, part of the Mount Hood Wilderness within the Mount Hood National Forest in my home State of Oregon.

Mount Hood is an Oregon icon. Ava and William Wyden, our twins, 6 years old—pictures available on my iPhone after this discussion—ski there. They have already recognized, at a very young age, that Mount Hood is an icon.

Wilderness, there and across America, has been called the gold standard of conservation, keeping areas under the strongest level of protection the law provides and ensuring that they remain wild for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. By identifying what places deserve wilderness protection in an open, inclusive fashion, the country ensures full public debate, opportunities to bring people together to build a consensus, sensitivity to rural traditions and local economic needs, with an end product being wilderness areas that all Americans can be proud of.

Creating wilderness is not only important for preservationists, it is also crucial for conservationists, outdoor enthusiasts everywhere, and for all those who make a recreation economy hum—the outfitters, the guides, the lodges, and the mom-and-pop diners. The fact is that the recreation economy supports hundreds of thousands of jobs in rural America and generates billions of dollars of economic activity across our country.

That is also where the Land and Water Conservation Fund comes in because it helps to secure and maintain public access to the country's public lands and wilderness areas for recreation and enjoyment.

Also celebrating its 50th anniversary this month is the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This exceptionally important program is responsible for protecting areas in all 50 States and our territories. This includes such special places, iconic places, as the Grand Canyon National Park, many of our storied

Civil War battlefields, and numerous national wildlife refuges.

In my home State of Oregon the fund has helped protect many of our most precious outdoor treasures, such as the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Crater Lake National Park, the Pacific Crest Trail, and the Oregon Dunes. Equally important, the Land and Water Conservation Fund feeds States critical funds that help create and maintain the local parks, the trails, and the recreational facilities.

Every year the Treasury collects billions of dollars of revenue, from offshore oil drilling and other sources of energy production. Out of that total, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is authorized to receive up to $900 million a year.

It is in my view a balanced approach, it is a simple approach, and it is a constructive approach to managing public lands with some of the money the country makes from extracting resources, taking that money and turning it around, and reinvesting it in the country's unique, open spaces.

There are tremendous economic benefits to the investment the fund makes. Nationwide, 98 percent of our counties contain land protected by the fund, and in these places America's outdoor recreation economy generates $646 billion in consumer spending and supports more than 6 million jobs.

Few States enjoy the outdoors more than Oregonians. It is almost as if the outdoors is a part of our gene pool.

We see ourselves as outdoors people, and outdoor recreation accounts for nearly $13 billion in consumer spending in our State, and it supports 141,000 Oregon jobs.

As I mentioned before, in addition to its Federal role, the Land and Water Conservation Fund helps the States. It provides matching grants so that State and local governments can use those funds to build new parks that are going to help struggling cities or towns develop. Or, they can maintain natural spaces that are critical to the quality of life in those local communities.

But the bottom line is, those investments—Federal, State, and local investments—lead to job creation. We know that recreation opportunities drive tourism, especially in our counties where there is a significant amount of protected lands.

Those who are recreating go to the local restaurants, go to the local shops, and they stay in the hotels. Often they look for outfitters and guides.

Economists note that job growth in rural western counties, where there is a significant amount of federally protected land, is four times faster than in areas where we do not have that measure of Federal protection.

These are just some of the many reasons why failing to give the Land and Water Conservation Fund the resources it needs, in my view, would be nothing short of legislative malpractice.

Unfortunately, despite the fact that 80 percent of Americans approve of the program's mission, it has been consistently underutilized, underappreciated and, yes, underfunded. As a result, jobs, growth, and protection—needed protection for these treasures—are left behind.

I plan to introduce two bills that would help to secure the future of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The first bill would provide a 1-year extension of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the second bill—that I hope to be able to introduce very shortly—would make it permanent because I believe that dedicated, stable funding will ensure our public lands continue to be preserved and accessible to support those recreationists of the future, the conservationists of the future, and the local economic leaders of the future who will prosper as a result of those investments.

In closing I will simply note that we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund as millions of families across the country return from summer vacations to the parks and wilderness areas that these great laws have helped to preserve and enrich.

Children everywhere are sharing stories in their schools about how they went fishing, hiking, and camping in their Nation's backyards.

If realized to their greatest potential, the Wilderness Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund are sure-fire ways to help guarantee that the next generation of Americans will continue to have access to beautiful recreation areas, captivating historic sites, and pristine wilderness. Strong, robust funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund will help grow economies and create jobs in every State nationwide.

Finally, let me note that until recently I had the honor of chairing the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. As chair, I had the opportunity to work particularly with two colleagues who are on the floor now, the distinguished Senator from Colorado, Mr. UDALL, and the distinguished Senator from New Mexico, Mr. HEINRICH. It makes me feel very good that they are here because, as Westerners, they see day in and day out what we are talking about with respect to the importance of this program and this extraordinary contribution it has made to the country.

These two great Western leaders, with respect to natural resources, understand it is not only about the past. It is not just about the wonderful half century that I have taken the time to note. These are two leaders—Senator UDALL of Colorado and Senator HEINRICH of New Mexico—who I think are going to be part of the leadership, the leadership that works to protect these two great programs for years to come.

I am very grateful to have the opportunity to be on the floor with them.

I had a chance particularly to see some of the treasures in Colorado recently. I can see why Senator UDALL feels so strongly.

New Mexico is one of the few States I have not visited, so I hope I will be able to wrangle an invitation to join Senator HEINRICH.

But I want to leave the floor knowing that as we make this commitment to do all we can to make the protection part of our extraordinary outdoor spaces part of the legacy we leave for our children and grandchildren, the case for these two programs—and advocating for them—is in very good hands with Senator UDALL and Senator HEINRICH.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I wish to begin by thanking the Senator from Oregon. He has been a true leader in the Senate for many years and I know the Senator from New Mexico joins me in thanking him for his leadership and for his partnership.

I rise—as Senator WYDEN has to celebrate the public lands of his State of Oregon—to celebrate the public lands of Colorado. I make the point right out of the gate that our public lands support thousands of jobs across Colorado and they strengthen our special way of life.

This month marks the 50th anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Wilderness Act. Both of these incredibly successful laws have been instrumental in protecting our public lands for future generations, growing our outdoor recreation economy, and ensuring access to public lands in Colorado and all across the country.

In sum, what I am saying is these landmark laws have touched every corner of Colorado over the past 50 years.

I am very pleased in that spirit to join Senator WYDEN and Senator SESSIONS in submitting a resolution honoring the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

From the snowcapped peaks of the Eagles Nest Wilderness and the desert arches of the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness, to James Peak—which I worked hard to establish—the Wilderness Act has protected more than 3.6 million acres in Colorado alone. These places have inspired generations of Coloradans and remind us that we don't inherit the Earth from our parents, we borrow it from our children.

Let me turn to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. In 1964, some 50 years ago, President Lyndon Johnson worked with the Congress to establish LWCF—the acronym for the Land and Water Conservation Fund—to fulfill a basic promise to the American people.

That promise is, as we develop our oil and gas resources, we will also conserve other special places throughout our country for the next generations.

As we mark 50 years of the program, we can tangibly see, feel, and breathe its success in the 3 million acres LWCF has helped us to preserve as part of 40,000 local park and recreation development projects across all 50 States, as

well as over 4 million acres of public lands managed by the Federal Government.

In Colorado we have seen firsthand how LWCF dollars have helped protect access to the public lands that help define us as a State.

From my position as chairman of the national parks subcommittee, I have seen how these funds have been particularly useful to our parks.

After all, there is no better example than the creation of Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado. This magnificent place was protected by LWCF appropriations that were obtained with very strong local support. Great Sand Dunes National Park protects one of our Nation's great landmarks and is also a critical source of tourist dollars for the surrounding rural communities, and this economic boost is something we have seen all across our State and our Nation.

It is noteworthy that for every dollar coming out of the LWCF fund, we see four times that much created in economic value—$1 equals $4 in economic value—and this investment through the LWCF program is part of the reason we have seen strong growth in America's outdoor recreation industry. When I say the outdoor recreation industry, that is activities such as hunting, fishing, camping, skiing, biking—you name it—and those activities have generated over $13 billion. That supports over 124,000 jobs in Colorado alone.

In another vein, LWCF resources have helped States such as ours become more resilient when it comes to national disasters. Last weekend I was in Lyons, CO, one of the towns hardest hit by Colorado's historic 2013 floods. This photograph is one of numerous examples of what we faced for about 3 days last fall a year ago.

Trout Unlimited has shared a story of how LWCF funds were used to help recover from a similar flood in the neighboring Big Thompson Canyon 30 years ago. Back in 1976 local officials had the foresight to make an LWCF purchase of 80 flooded properties and to replace the damaged homes with new parkland which then provided fishing access to the community and critical floodplain protection. That $1 million investment in 1976 helped families who had lost their homes then and avoided an estimated $16 million in property damages in 2013 that would have happened without those preservation efforts.

The Big Thompson Canyon flooded in a similar fashion last year as it did in 1976, but because of the LWCF moneys and the fact that 80 flooded properties were purchased, there weren't buildings and there wasn't human activity in those areas, and we saw the result. It was a way to rebuild smarter and better in 1976, and we are going to do that going forward from 2013's flood.

As a part of that, I was really excited and pleased to hear that the town of Lyons recently received $350,000 of LWCF funding to repair and rebuild the spectacular St. Vrain River corridor trail. Before that trail was destroyed last fall in the flood, it had been used as a regional connector for anglers, cyclists, kayakers, mountain bikers, and many others. This project will now help restore a vital economic asset for the community, and it will ensure access to the river and the river corridor for many generations to come. That is a success story, pure and simple.

LWCF has helped in many other less obvious ways. As we fight to get our kids—and ourselves—to spend less time in front of the television, outdoor recreation is still the best way to stay physically fit and active and emotionally healthy.

This past July I rafted the Browns Canyon Wilderness Study Area of the Arkansas River. You can see here what a spectacular and unique place Browns Canyon is—an area I have proposed to preserve permanently as the Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness. Along on that rafting trip we had a group of veterans, and several of them are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, as we know it. They told me how they use their time outdoors as a part of their healing—again, a success story.

How do we keep LWCF strong? Even though LWCF has been successful by any measure, while enjoying strong bipartisan support, the program has only been fully funded two times since its enacting law in 1964 promised $900 million in annual funding. That is right—only two times out of the last 50 years. LWCF is a victim of the uncertainty of the annual appropriations cycle, which leaves a huge unmet need in Colorado and across our country. That is why I have been fighting—joined by many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle—for full, permanent funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I am very pleased to be working with Senator WYDEN, Senator HEINRICH, and others on a fix that would fulfill the LWCF promise. This is a promise to our kids, our grandkids, and all generations down the line, and we have an obligation to keep it.

The good news is that this potential fix would also reauthorize and fund two other programs that are critical to our rural communities: the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program, which is also known as PILT, and Secure Rural Schools. I will talk briefly about both of those programs.

For decades the PILT Program has provided critical funding to nearly 1,900 rural counties to make up for diminished tax revenues stemming from Federal land ownership within those county boundaries. PILT helps ensure rural communities have access to basic services such as law enforcement, education, and health services.

Let me share an example. Ouray County in southwestern Colorado is still recovering from the recent economic downturn and the corresponding 36 percent drop in property tax collection. The county has already cut staff time significantly by reducing county operations to only 4 days a week. Without PILT, that would drop to just 3 days a week. PILT also ensures that the county can hire a sheriff and that students can get to school.

Unfortunately, permanent funding for this program expired, and PILT now experiences the uncertainty of short-term fixes, creating significant planning challenges for Colorado and rural Americans. I was proud to lead the effort last year to extend PILT funding through the farm bill, which delivered $34.5 million to Colorado communities. But here in the Congress we have to do more. We have to confront this annual uncertainty over the future of the PILT Program. That is why I have championed a separate bill to permanently fund PILT. This is also a bipartisan effort, and it is why I have worked with Senator WYDEN to include such certainty in this comprehensive bill today.

I mentioned the Secure Rural Schools Program, and the same could be said of it. Rural Colorado communities rely on the Secure Rural Schools Program to hire teachers and strengthen our education system. In 2013 alone Colorado communities—where one teacher can make or break a school—received $9.5 million through this vital program. So this important bill for our Secure Rural Schools Program would ensure that the Federal Government keeps its commitment to our rural counties to help offset the costs of public education, roads, and other essential services.

We have a dynamic trio of very important programs: LWCF, PILT, and Secure Rural Schools. They help support Colorado's rural communities and our special way of life.

I will conclude with this theme. We are a nation of risk-takers and explorers, always searching for the next challenge to overcome or the next mountain to climb. Our public lands are a reminder of that heritage, and finding the right balance for how to use our public lands is the next challenge to overcome. As we tackle problems such as growing our economy, disaster response, and taking care of our wounded warriors, let's not forget the important role of our public lands and the opportunities they provide for outdoor recreation, our economy, and our health. This year, let's reflect on what President Kennedy called ''intelligent use of natural resources.'' Let's celebrate 50 years of the Land and Water Conservation Fund with bipartisan action for full and permanent funding for LWCF, PILT, and Secure Rural Schools.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, let me start out by righting a wrong. I hadn't realized Chairman WYDEN, our chairman from Oregon, had not had a chance to visit the great State of New Mexico. I will fix that right now and

make sure he is not only invited, but we might seek to show him some of the incredible places the two programs we are talking about today have helped preserve, protect, and make as assets to our local economy in the State of New Mexico.

As we heard from our colleague Senator UDALL and our colleague Chairman WYDEN of Oregon as well, this month we celebrate two incredible milestones in our country's conservation history. We celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and the 50th anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Both of these programs have been etched into the history of my home State by New Mexico conservationists with names such as Aldo Leopold, Senator Clinton P. Anderson, and Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall.

When Senator Anderson steered the passage of the Wilderness Act here on the floor of the Senate, he said on August 20, 1964:

> In no area has this Congress more decisively served the future well-being of the Nation than in passing legislation to conserve natural resources and to provide the means by which our people could enjoy them. . . . While we stretch out the highways to carry ever-expanding traffic, while we build whole new communities to house a growing population, and while we consume more acreage for a burgeoning industry, we have set aside part of our land as it was when human eye first saw it—unscarred by man, primeval, a memorial to the Creator who molded it.

Senator Anderson was also unquestionably one of the principal architects of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the 88th Congress, where so much of this work was done, was coined as the ''Conservation Congress.''

LWCF is the primary tool our Nation uses to fund the protection of our natural and cultural heritage, and I have worked diligently with my colleagues—including Senator UDALL, his cousin Senator UDALL of New Mexico, Senator WYDEN of Oregon, and others—to secure full and permanent funding for this program.

But even 40 years before the enactment of the Wilderness Act or LWCF, conservationist Aldo Leopold had the vision and influence to help protect 500,000 acres of mountains, rivers, and mesas in New Mexico—which eventually became the Gila Wilderness—in order to ensure a roadless and backcountry experience free of what Aldo Leopold called ''Ford dust'' for those hearty enough to saddle up or hike into the heart of this wild country. With the passage of the Wilderness Act, it became the National Forest System's very first designated wilderness area. New Mexico is also where the idea of tribally administered wilderness became a reality when Blue Lake was returned to Taos Pueblo.

Former Senator Jeff Bingaman's leadership was absolutely invaluable in conserving important public lands in New Mexico, such as the Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks regions, both of which were designated national monuments within the last 2 years.

But the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund is not just about the past, as we have heard from my colleagues. The future of public lands conservation will depend on the continued collaborative efforts of our elected officials, our business owners, tribal leaders, sportsmen, conservation organizations, outdoor retailers, and others to work together to protect America's most treasured natural landscapes.

Our efforts should continue our proud bipartisan history. After all, it was Representative John Saylor, a Republican from Pennsylvania, who was the lead sponsor and champion in the House of Representatives for the Wilderness Act. And it was former Republican Senator Pete Domenici of my home State who championed legislation to designate the Sandia Wilderness, a place I look upon every time I go home to Albuquerque, and who said at the time that the area ''forms a beautiful natural backdrop for the city which all the residents can enjoy.''

In New Mexico, hunters and anglers, campers and acequia parciantes, chili farmers and urban dwellers, all have a deep connection to the outdoors and benefit from the recreation, wildlife, and the water that wilderness provides. Many of my own most formative moments, decisions, memories, and turning points have occurred in these public wildlands.

I remember a trip with my wife Julie to the Irish Wilderness in Missouri, a trip that we made as we were leaving our college days behind in the Midwest and heading back west to New Mexico to start our new life together. In 2001, shortly after 9/11, I backpacked through 53 miles of the Gilo Wilderness and decided on that trip to run for a seat on the Albuquerque City Council.

I have many cherished memories from the trips my wife and I have made over the years along the spines of the American Rockies, the Sangre de Cristos, the Tetons, in places with names like the Pecos Wilderness, the South San Juan, Jedediah Smith, and canyons with names like Dark Canyon, Desolation Canyon, Gray, Grand Gulch, the Goosenecks, the San Juan, and of course the Chama River Canyon near my home.

Wilderness is in my blood, and I make no apologies for believing that some places are so very special that we will never improve upon them. These are the places worth fighting for.

I am committed to carry on my State's rich conservation history. Senator TOM UDALL and I have introduced legislation to designate special places such as the Columbine-Hondo in Taos County, the San Antonio River and Ute Mountain in the new Rio Grande del Norte National Monument as new wilderness areas. It is clear that conservation and growing our economy are inextricably linked. Protected wild places contribute to the New Mexico economy in a robust and sustainable outdoor recreation community which generates $6.1 billion in consumer spending every year in the State, gives us 68,000 New Mexico jobs, and $1.7 billion in wages and salaries, according to the Outdoor Industry Association.

The new Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in northern New Mexico has already yielded economic benefits since its designation. After less than 1 year since it was designated a national monument, the local community saw a 40-percent increase in visitors.

As we look back on the last 50 years since the Wilderness Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund both became law, let us also look to the future. My children love wild places as much as I do. My son Carter will be backpack hunting for elk with me later this fall. My son Michael will join me on BLM land to chase mule deer. They have hiked the Columbine Hondo Wilderness Study Area and fished in Cruces Basin Wilderness.

It is up to all of us to ensure that their children have the same opportunities we had and that we have shared with their generation.

I close with a quote from Aldo Leopold's book, ''A Sand County Almanac'':

> When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I wish to speak in support of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to commemorate its 50th anniversary this month.

Fifty years ago, in an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote, the House and Senate passed and President Johnson signed into law the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. And for 50 years now, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped protect and preserve our Nation's outdoor heritage all around my home State of Washington and across the country for our children and grandchildren.

The LWCF contains a set of unique tools that empower local communities to increase public access to open space, conserve forests, and protect wilderness areas. These funds help secure permanent, public access to lands and waterways for hikers, bikers, campers, hunters, anglers, and other outdoor enthusiasts. Senator Henry Jackson, from my home State of Washington, was one of the drafters of the original legislation. During debate of the bill on this very floor, he reminded his colleagues of the importance of open space to Americans, that these public lands are ''the places they go to hunt, fish, camp, picnic, swim, for boating or driving for pleasure, or perhaps simply for relaxation or solitude.'' And that description still rings true today.

There are many examples of the LWCF at work in my home State of Washington. LWCF support flowing through its State and local assistance

grants, Forest Legacy Program, Federal Land Management Agency projects, and Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund have helped protect over 120,000 acres of land and create or enhance hundreds of recreational facilities. These funds have gone to a wide variety of projects, from Federal wilderness to private working farms and forests, from scenic rivers to urban water parks. From the Straits of Juan de Fuca to the crest of the Cascades, from the Columbia River Gorge to the Little Spokane River, the LWCF has made my State a better place for future generations.

But a common thread through all these projects has been the way LWCF funding has brought together local public officials, conservationists, farmers, business leaders, forest owners, and engaged citizens to create and enhance public access to open space and natural areas and help keep sprawl in check, all while allowing for sustained economic growth and development. Funding from the LWCF were key in allowing for many of the individual acquisitions needed to achieve this, and I am proud to have supported many of these projects which have helped make these communities' visions a reality.

It is important to remember that it isn't just rural areas in Washington that have been enhanced with resources from the fund. Dozens of projects in the hearts of our cities have given children access to much needed parks, sports fields, and swimming facilities. Families can now enjoy time together picnicking, biking, and even hiking in forests and other habitats, right outside their doorsteps. And we all benefit from the cleaner air and cleaner water that results from these high quality protected lands. Land and water conservation is good for our health, good for our families, and good for our souls.

But we also know it is good for our economy. In 2012, Americans spent over $640 billion on outdoor recreation, and in Washington alone outdoor pursuits supported 227,000 direct jobs.

Our Nation has been blessed with an abundance of natural resources. That is why it makes perfect sense that when we develop some of those energy resources to fuel our economy, we set aside a portion of the royalties generated from that development to protect those other natural resources. But these conservation dollars are more than just outlays, they are also good investments. Studies have estimated that each dollar invested in land conservation returns between $4 and $10 in economic benefits to the economy, and we will see this return on investment for generation after generation.

Even with all the good that we see as a result of the LWCF, there is so much more that we could be doing. That is because in spite of all the benefits that we receive from LWCF spending, Congress has diverted the bulk of these conservation dollars to unrelated programs. We ought to fix that. Next year, the funding authority for the LWCF will expire. We need to permanently reauthorize this program, and create an independent, dedicated stream of funding for it. Doing so will benefit all Americans, both now and for generations to come.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland is recognized.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for up to 7 minutes, followed by Senator CORNYN for up to 10 minutes, and Senator BLUMENTHAL for up to 15 minutes.

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

ISIL STRATEGY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I take this time to talk about the President's strategies on combating the threat of ISIL, or ISIS. I applaud the President's recognition that ISIL is a barbaric terrorist group that beheaded Americans. It murders, kidnaps, and tortures civilian populations. It sells women into slavery. It has the stated purpose of attacking America and its allies. It poses a threat, and the President is right that it calls for appropriate action by the international community.

I support and congratulate the President on the selective military strikes that have been done at the request of the Iraqi Government against ISIL's advances, which have held them back, and being able to regain territory that was held by ISIL, protecting civilian populations. I strongly support the President's commitment that there will be no combat ground troops interjected into this combat, and I think the President has done a good job in engaging the international community to work with us so that this is truly an international effort.

Let me comment for a moment, if I might, about military action and that it needs to be restricted. I oppose authorizing military use of force that is open-ended, that could result in the use of ground troops or where we could be asked to carry through or have our military do what the countries where these terrorist groups are located should be doing with their own military. In Iraq, it should be the Iraqi security forces that take on the ground responsibilities.

Let me remind my colleagues, when we went into Iraq—and it was done without my support. I voted against the authorization to go into Iraq. We were told that was going to be a short campaign, that the might of the military of the United States would make that a very quick operation. As we see years later, it took a long time and we are still in Iraq. It must be done with the help of the international community, particularly the countries that are in the region.

I think we have a strong responsibility as Members of the Senate and Members of Congress to revisit the 2001 authorization that was passed by Congress shortly after the attack on our country on September 11, and the 2002 authorization that was used for Americans going into Iraq. I don't think either one of those resolutions is relevant for additional military action today in either Syria or Iraq.

Let me read into the RECORD the appropriate language that was included in the 2001 authorization:

> The President is authorized to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed or aided the terrorist attack that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons . . .

It is a real stretch to say that authority applies to actions against ISIL today. Therefore, I think it is incumbent. I think we have a constitutional responsibility to act, and I think we must act and make it very clear that there will be no ground combat troops authorized in any action taken by Congress.

In regard to Iraq, the Iraq resolution was passed at a time when the information supplied to Congress was not accurate. It is certainly not relevant to the fact that now there is an independent Iraqi Government. That authorization also needs to be revisited.

Let me remind you, if this administration can use the authority of 2001 and 2002 for using aircraft and military operations by air, what is to say that the next administration—because we know this is going to take a long time—couldn't use that authorization for introducing ground troops in these countries?

So I think it is important that we revisit these authorizations, eliminate the previous authorizations, and make it relevant to the current need. It has to be limited to strategic air missions requested by the Iraqi Government, targeted at protecting civilian populations.

In regard to Syria, I have serious doubt about authorizing military operations. I think we need to have clarification from the administration as to the clear objectives they are seeking to accomplish in Syria. We have to be very careful about the authorization of the use of our military in a country where we are not invited.

Now let me talk 1 minute about timing. The President has article II powers. I don't deny that. So if something were to happen, he has the right to defend our country and use our military to defend our country. He can do that for a period of 60 days. Sixty days from now we will soon be returning for a lameduck session of Congress, so I don't think there is any immediate rush for us to try to get an authorization bill done. But I think we should be working on an authorization bill so we can take it up when Congress reconvenes, and if something happens in the interim, we are certainly available and we can come back in and be ready to act.

America is always stronger when Congress and the administration work together on these issues, and I would

hope we could come together with the appropriate authorization, making clear we will not allow authorization for combat ground troops and that we are very restricted on the use of our air power.

Let me lastly comment about the continuing resolution we will be voting on tomorrow, as I understand it, that gives title 10 power for the arming and equipping of the Syrian opposition. Clearly in that authorization there is no authorization for use of U.S. military force. It is consistent with the action taken by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on which I serve and the resolution I supported that talked about arming and training the vetted Syrian opposition. We did that over a year ago. It was for a different mission; it was for dealing with Assad. This in a way is comparable to dealing with ISIL but also deals with the capacities against Assad. It is limited, to expire on December 11, and I think it is consistent with our mission to deal with our policies in Syria.

As I said earlier, I voted against the Iraq authorization in 2002. I see that we have to be very careful that we do not allow authorization to exist that could be used for a long and costly involvement of the United States.

It is also clear to me that we cannot win the campaign against ISIL by military action alone. We have to have diplomatic support. We have to deal with cutting off the financial aid. We have to deal with cutting off the political support in Iraq. In Iraq we have a representative government. The seeds have been planted. That is what we need to do. That cuts off the support ISIL will need for long-term survival. The international community needs to stay resolved and the United States needs to stay in leadership.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Texas is recognized.

SENATE PROCEDURE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it has been more than a decade since I first came to this Chamber of the United States Senate. It has become unrecognizable—what has traditionally been a forum for thoughtful debate, amendments, and discussion based frequently on different perspectives that we come to based on our experience or the parts of the country we represent. Unfortunately this Chamber has devolved into one where not much gets done, and when there are votes, they are frequently show votes with the election clearly in mind.

Look no farther than our September agenda. Amid high unemployment, stagnant wages, widespread frustration over the consequences of ObamaCare, and genuine humanitarian and security crises abroad and here at home, our colleagues who control the agenda in the Chamber decided the most urgent order of business was to amend the Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution and gut the First Amendment.

As I said at the time, when I went home during the August recess to talk to my constituents, not one of them said: I want you to go back to Congress and I want you to gut the First Amendment guarantee to freedom of speech. This clearly is not at the top of the American people's agenda.

Despite all the challenges facing our country, the majority leader, who controls the agenda on the Senate floor, continues to prioritize election year votes—show votes—over serious legislation.

Back in March, when our Democratic friends decided to promote their so-called ''fair shot'' agenda, the New York Times noted that the exercise was completely political in nature. The New York Times—hardly hostile to our Democratic friends and their policy agenda—put it:

> Democrats can see that making new laws is really not the point. Rather they are trying to force Republicans to vote against them.

Meanwhile, the majority leader has prevented millions and millions of Americans from having a real voice in this Chamber. Since he became the majority leader, he has blocked legislation more than twice as often as the majority leaders Bill Frist, Tom Daschle, Trent Lott, Bob Dole, George Mitchell, and I should add Robert Byrd, combined. But he hasn't just blocked Republican amendments, not just those in the minority; he has blocked amendments from the majority party—his own party.

Since July of last year we have had rollcall votes on only 14 Republican amendments and only 8 Democratic amendments. I have to tell you that if my party was in the majority and we ended up getting less votes than the party in the minority, I would be pretty hot about it, and I would have some explaining to do to my constituents. Indeed, the majority leader has allowed so few amendments that one of his fellow Senate Democrats, the junior Senator from Connecticut, recently told Politico: I got more substance on the floor of the House of Representatives in the minority than I have as a Member of the Senate majority.

Our colleagues in the House have sent over scores and scores of bills relating to job creation, taxes, health care, immigration, and other issues only to have Senator REID declare them dead on arrival. No wonder Congress has a 14-percent approval rating. When people see the dysfunction here—primarily in the Senate, since the House is passing legislation and then it dies here because the majority leader refuses to take it up—it is understandable why they are frustrated, just as we are frustrated.

I know it is not just those of us in the minority. Many Democratic colleagues privately expressed their own frustrations about the Senate becoming so dysfunctional. If the majority leader was serious about solving the problems that confront our country, they would not need to look far beyond positive progrowth ideas to address our Nation's most pressing challenges. They would see that Senate Republicans have joined our House colleagues in offering a bevy of thoughtful proposals.

First and foremost we have long stressed the need to pass a progrowth fiscally responsible budget. The Senate—under Democratic control—has not passed a budget since 2009. That is malpractice. We should leave the next generation with more economic opportunity, not more debt. Somebody is going to have to pay that money back. Maybe the young folks who are sitting in the front row—the young pages and their children will have to pay the money back. Americans and small businesses across the country budget responsibly every month and so should their government.

In addition, we pushed sensible progrowth energy policies that enjoy bipartisan support, such as approving the Keystone XL Pipeline and boosting the U.S. exports of liquefied natural gas. We need energy policies that enhance our energy security, reduce prices, encourage investment, and create jobs at home. We also need a regulatory system that fosters economic growth and prosperity, not one that furthers Washington's overreach. Republicans believe we must continue aggressive oversight of the Obama administration's out-of-control regulatory agenda, which is hitting hard-working Americans and their wages while empowering Federal bureaucrats.

Senate Republicans also believe the President's health care law was absolutely the wrong way to expand affordable, accessible, quality health care to more Americans. We believe families and patients should be free to purchase whatever kind of insurance they prefer without having to worry about the government meddling.

We believe future reform should guarantee that health care decisions will be made by patients and their doctors, not by Washington. We believe those reforms should make quality health insurance and quality care more accessible for more people. Here is the greatest irony of ObamaCare—instead of making health care more affordable, it made it more expensive, thus limiting access to care.

On tax reform, we believe our overriding goal should be to lower tax rates for all taxpayers, broaden the base, and simplify the entire system in order to restore America's global competitiveness. We also favor ending ''too big to fail,'' thereby, ending the implicit government backstop and subsidy currently enjoyed by America's largest banks. There are a number of ways to achieve that goal, but we all agree Dodd-Frank did not solve that problem.

Immigration continues to be among the most pressing issues we face, especially given this year's record surge of unaccompanied children coming from Central America and pouring across our southwest border. We understand

that one of America's top priorities is to make sure our laws are being enforced and our border is secure. We share that priority and we will keep advocating the necessary reforms, along with other reforms, to fix our broken immigration system.

We believe there are a lot of good ideas, and they are not the purview of either political party. In fact, we have been sent by our constituents to work in a bipartisan way to try and solve some of America's most pressing challenges, and we view our intellectual diversity as a sign of strength, but we remain united on the core principles and ideas that define our party.

We have had an experiment in big government over the last 6 years and, you know what, it hasn't worked very well. Unemployment rates remain high, the labor participation rate is at a 30-year low, and people have simply given up. The economy should be bounding back rather than knocking along the bottom. We remain committed to tackling our Nation's biggest challenges of promoting greater prosperity for all Americans, and we do that by growing the economy and creating jobs and letting people work hard, as they always have in America, and pursuing their dreams.

Proposals such as the ones I mentioned, many of which enjoy bipartisan support—they certainly have in the House of Representatives—will never see the light of day here as long as the majority leader continues to operate this Chamber like an incumbent protection program.

The American people sent us to take tough votes and solve problems. Indeed, I don't know anyone who would want to be a Senator if we are not allowed to vote and solve problems. The American people certainly deserve a Senate that operates that way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Connecticut.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, recently the Nation has been shocked and horrified by a video showing Ray Rice, a professional football player, knocking out his then fiancee who is now his wife, Janay Rice, and dragging her like a sack of potatoes out of an elevator as it almost closed on her. The Nation was shocked by the callous indifference and disregard for the issue of domestic violence not only by Ray Rice but by the NFL itself, which has fumbled and failed in its reaction from the very beginning.

Indeed, I wrote to the NFL asking for stronger measures after it suspended Ray Rice for a mere two games. Since then it has received the now infamous and notorious video, and he has been suspended indefinitely.

Ray Rice is only 1 of 85 players since the year 2000 who has been charged or cited for domestic violence, and many more were arrested for sexual assault, drunk driving, and other crimes.

This poster shows how the league could field an entire lineup of players who have been arrested for domestic violence and who remain active in the NFL. There are others who are not shown here. Ray Rice is on the field, though he may be suspended indefinitely.

These incidents, and literally thousands of others, are the ugly, brutal, bloody face of domestic violence in this Nation. Not only is it bigger and broader and more painful and serious than Ray and Janay Rice, it affects our entire society. Its victims are throughout the country, and what they need most desperately are more services to bolster their courage and strength to come forward and break the cycle.

I know domestic violence is an issue in Connecticut because I worked to fight child abuse and neglect and related kinds of domestic violence when I served as attorney general. Not only have I worked in courts but also in schools to speak to young men and women.

I have worked with shelters such as Interval House, the largest shelter in Connecticut, which helped to form an organization called Men Make a Difference, Men Against Domestic Violence, which is composed of men as role models. Coaches, former athletes, successful businesspeople, law enforcement types, and broadcasters provide role models and take a stand and speak out against this scourge.

I know the brutal and terrible toll taken by domestic violence in Connecticut and in this country. The economic consequences run into the billions and the searing pain, savage emotional harm, and physical wounds are incalculable. The tentacles of domestic violence reach into every aspect of American life—homes, workplaces, hospitals, and athletic fields.

In Connecticut, the demand for victim support services has steadily increased over the years, and in Connecticut and around the country the need for services has spiked as a result of the Ray Rice video because more women and men have gained the courage and strength to come forward as a result of the national conversation that video has spurred.

As I have continued my work in Congress as a Member of the Senate, I have been deeply troubled, in fact, outraged on occasion, that we authorized barely a pittance of what is necessary to deal with that problem and support those services that are so vital to providing counseling, support, and advocacy.

Just in the past couple of days, I have learned that 30 percent of calls to the National Domestic Violence Hotline go unanswered. Congress bears a majority of the responsibility for this lack of resources.

There are heroes in this fight against domestic violence. Some of the advocates, service providers, and people such as Karen Jarmoc, CEO of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Kim Gandy, president and CEO of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, and most important, the survivors and victims who have come forward and are telling their stories and speaking truth to the power and brutality they faced and confronted and conquered.

In fact, one of the challenges on this issue has always been the secrecy that surrounds it. The video of Ray Rice assaulting and knocking out his wife is the exception that proves the rule. It is the exception because most instances of domestic violence occur behind closed doors in secrecy and often at night and they go unrecorded because in most instances of domestic violence, women are disbelieved, embarrassed, shamed, and stigmatized when they come forward.

The Ray Rice video is the exception that proves the rule. It is the exception of this brutality being shown, but it is the rule that the response is almost always slow and inadequate. Even after Ray Rice was indicted for third-degree assault, Janay virtually apologized for her role in a stage-managed press conference orchestrated by the team—the Ravens—for whom Ray Rice played.

Only after the second video was circulated did the league even approach real action. The prosecutor in this instance said he would not treat Ray Rice more leniently or harshly simply because of his celebrity, which is understandable.

The routine in most courts in America is failure to treat domestic violence as seriously and severely as the crime it is and provide the punishment it deserves. The Ray Rice case was routine and it was done routinely, but that doesn't make it right. So the courts bear a measure of responsibility, along with the Congress.

The NFL is not alone here, but the NFL has a special position of trust. It is one of the most massively influential organizations in America. It employs players who have a massive impact on the attitudes and feelings of young men and women—in fact, Americans of all ages.

The NFL has a position of public trust because of its prominence and power, but it also has a position of public trust because of the special benefits it is accorded under the law. And it is like the NBA, the MLB, and the NHL, which all receive tremendous assistance in putting their brands and their messages before the American people. So it is our responsibility to call on these leagues to ensure that their messages which they can spread so widely because of the benefits they are accorded under our law—to ensure and require them to keep faith with their public trust and public obligation.

The public assistance these leagues receive take a number of very exceptional forms: tax benefits, public subsidies, and local assistance. But chief among them is the antitrust exemption enjoyed by the four major sports leagues. Although large corporations and similar organizations that have the potential to dominate a particular marketplace are generally prevented

from coordinating their activities under our antitrust laws, Congress permits this kind of coordination by professional sports teams, particularly in the area of pooling their broadcast rights and television contracts—the very means that enable them to spread their message and create that public image.

Teams in smaller media markets are able to remain competitive with their larger counterparts because of those benefits and the fact that the governing national leagues can evenly distribute resources—again, through coordination, agreements, combinations that would violate the law for any other corporation.

This exemption was the product of significant debate and analysis in Congress and around the country when it was granted. It was first established in 1961, and the Judiciary Committee noted even then that it was not intended to be absolute and that it was not to be used for unfair competition and that there was a public trust and obligation.

In 1976 the House of Representatives convened what it called a ''Select Committee on Professional Sports'' which prepared detailed reports on ''the large number of off-the-field problems that affected all four of the professional sports,'' including ''both violence that involves participants in the sports as well as violence involving spectators of the sports.'' We know the problems in these leagues include not only domestic violence but also the failure to address injuries such as concussions, drug abuse, and other problems that have been reported.

If anything, in the more than 50 years since the exemption was first granted, the prominence of the four professional sporting leagues in the American media landscape has only increased. The leagues have a tremendous effect, again, reaching into every aspect of American life, on programming, pricing, advertising, and more.

A lot has changed over the past 50 years, not least of which is our understanding of the harms of domestic violence and the importance of workplace policies that protect women, minorities, and other members of society. Yet the NFL's response to the Ray Rice incident came right out of the 1960s—right out of an episode of ''Mad Men.''

Our laws and our practices and our culture must change. Most leagues, most athletes, most managers, and most teams play by the rules on and off the field. But, unfortunately, these deep-seated problems are not new. This special status can no longer be a blank check. It can no longer be granted permanently. It must be reviewable and the teams and the league held accountable. The era of the blank check for sports teams must end. The special benefits must be dependent on the leagues' fulfilling their positions of trust and special responsibility.

I will be proposing legislation to sunset the leagues' special antitrust treatment, ending the blanket antitrust exemption and making it renewable every 5 years. The exemption should depend on the leagues' acting consistently with their public trust and complying with ethical and legal standards that both protect and oversee players and that keep the teams accountable to their fans. Their fans deserve better.

To ensure that Congress has accurate information, my legislation will establish a commission, like many that have existed in the past, to monitor the leagues' record of corporate citizenship. The commission would include representatives with special knowledge of issues that were proven to be a problem for the leagues, such as the heads of the Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women, the Federal Communications Commission, and the Surgeon General, and the commission would be responsible for submitting a report to Congress in advance of the vote to reauthorize and renew the antitrust exemption.

Other groups would have an opportunity to be heard and to submit their views, and there would be hearings, meetings, and other exchanges that would give all an opportunity to be heard on this vital topic. I hope the Congress will have hearings as soon as possible on this issue.

I believe the professional sports leagues, and in particular the NFL, have an obligation to adopt policies that train players on domestic violence—more than lip service, more than check-the-box orientation settings—and, most important, to punish acts of abuse and promote awareness of this terrible crime. They have an obligation to act in accordance with due process and establish rules that treat more stringently and strictly this crime of domestic violence, in accordance with standards that give the players the right and opportunity to be heard.

But maybe more importantly than all else, these leagues should be accountable to help the survivors and victims, to provide funds out of the tens of billions in their profits to support these services that are more necessary than ever. They should support the survivors—most of them women—who come forward and have the incredible courage, bravery, and strength to break with a situation of domestic violence. It is at that point of maximum danger and turmoil in their lives that they most need to reach someone and have someone reach them to provide the counseling and advocacy they need and deserve at that moment of turmoil and pain.

Congress, the courts, all of us, have a responsibility to do more and to do better and to demand of professional sports leagues that they do more and do better.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Utah.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, at some point today or tomorrow the Senate will hastily consider, and likely pass, a massive, hodgepodge spending bill to fund every last Department and program within our Federal Government—even those programs and those Departments we know don't work, even those programs and those Departments where we know there is a lot of abuse and misuse of sacred Federal funds. The alternative, if we can call it even an alternative at all—and the only alternative—is to deny funding for every last Department and every last program within the Federal Government—even those programs and those Departments we know are absolutely essential.

All or nothing—those are our only options, the only options we are given. We have no other choice made available to us. This is government on autopilot or, alternatively, government without an engine.

The problem is that by funding the Federal Government with a massive patchwork spending bill, we force the American people to choose between two equally bad, two equally unacceptable options: Pay for everything in government or pay for nothing at all; either fund the entire Federal Government tomorrow at exactly the same level we are funding it today or fund nothing within the Federal Government, not even to pay our soldiers, our sailors, our airmen, our marines, our judges, or not even to provide care for our veterans or support for the most vulnerable among us.

This kind of all-or-nothing proposition is dysfunctional, it is antidemocratic, and it prevents Congress from doing its job, which, I remind my colleagues, is to represent the American people and to be faithful stewards of their money—of the taxpayers' money—with which they have entrusted their Congress.

During the month of August, I held a long series of townhall meetings across my State, the great State of Utah. Whether I was in Cache County in the northern end of the State or in Washington County in the opposite direction or somewhere in between, the people of Utah, Democrats and Republicans alike, were clear about what they wanted. They were clear about the fact that they were demanding action. They wanted action in Washington. Their concerns weren't always the same. Some worried most about the public lands. Others were anxious about the economy. Many, of course, were troubled by the growing crisis along our southern border.

They were all looking for answers. They were all looking for solutions from someone. Everywhere I went they asked me: What are you going to do? What are you going to do to get our economy back on track? What are you going to do to deal with many of the problems within our Federal Government that seem to go unaddressed for

far too long? I would tell them: As a matter of law and by operation of our Constitution, Members of Congress have certain tools to address all of these concerns, but none of these powers is greater than the power of the purse. This is the power to allocate money, to fund the government, to fund its operations. It is what enables Congress, and only Congress, to reform dysfunctional government.

Encompassed within the power to give money is the power, necessarily, to withhold money. In this case the power of the purse is the most potent and the most effective instrument Congress can use to hold the executive branch accountable.

So when the administration fails to follow the law, as our current administration has done so freely and so frequently, Congress can demand answers and accountability by using the power of the purse as leverage.

As several of these townhall conversations continued, in the course of those townhall conversations, I began to notice that at this point in my answer, many people began to look hopeful—hoping that perhaps something could actually get done in Washington; hoping that perhaps some of the problems within our Federal Government could be corrected, could be reined in, could be turned around and set on a better course—but then I would have to break the bad news, and here is the bad news.

I would have to tell them all those things their representatives should be able to do and have an obligation to do—such as fixing broken government programs and ensuring the solvency of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and impeding lawless actions by the executive branch—but simply cannot get done because the Democratic leadership in the Senate insists that our Federal Government operate on autopilot.

This is the problem with the continuing resolution. When Congress has only one opportunity to exercise its power of the purse by voting for or against an all-or-nothing spending package and an all-inclusive, all-or-nothing spending bill, Congress has essentially no opportunity to exercise its power of the purse—at least not in a meaningful way, at least not in a way that enables Congress to demand accountability from Government.

In the continuing resolution we will consider tomorrow, there are several provisions that deserve their own consideration and debate, such as reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank, extending the Internet Tax Freedom Act, and authorizing military action in Syria. None of these measures—and certainly not something that could put American lives at risk—should be hurried through on an all-or-nothing vote.

This is why the continuing resolution matters for everyone in this country. It is the principal reason our government is so dysfunctional and so unaccountable. A government on autopilot leaves Congress effectively paralyzed—powerless to implement meaningful government reforms and powerless to hold the President and the President's administration accountable for their actions.

This is not how government is supposed to operate. This is not how this government is ever supposed to be allowed to operate. It doesn't have to be this way. There is a better way. Indeed, as you can see on this chart, until just a few years ago, the better way was the only way. The House has done this and it is still doing it today.

Let me explain what this demonstrates right here. Freestanding appropriations bills that were passed by the Congress for fiscal year 2006—we had 11 separate individualized freestanding appropriations bills. To put that in context, that is more freestanding independent appropriations bills than Congress has enacted in all of the fiscal years ever since then—just in one year. That, of course, used to be the norm. It no longer is. In fact, lately, we are not doing any of these things.

It is important to point out that the House of Representatives still routinely passes freestanding appropriations measures. For fiscal year 2015, the upcoming fiscal year, the House of Representatives has passed seven such bills. The Senate has passed zero. Not only has the Senate passed none of its own free-standing appropriations bills, it has refused even to vote on any of the seven appropriations bills passed by the House of Representatives.

The fact is that before the Democratic leadership took control of the Senate, Congress would spend most of its time during the spring and summer of each year discussing, debating, amending, and eventually figuring out how much taxpayer money to spend and on what. Congress would consider separate spending bills, one by one, individually. Each of these bills would allocate a certain amount of money to fund the Departments, the agencies, and the programs within a certain area of government, organized by government functions such as defense, transportation, homeland security or health care.

Each spending bill originated in one of the corresponding subcommittees in the House and in the Senate. This is what we call the appropriations process. It makes sense that it would take up most of our time because as Members of Congress we have a solemn obligation to represent the people and to be faithful stewards of taxpayer money—of the money that many Americans spend many months of their lives each year just to earn so that they can send it to Washington, DC.

The American taxpayer deserves better. The American taxpayer should be able to expect more out of Congress. Instead, they have come to expect so much less.

That is how Congress used to operate, according to its own rules, according to historic precedent, and—more to the point—according to basic principles of common sense. Alas, times have changed. What Congress used to deliberate on for months, we now rush through in a single afternoon without opportunity for amendment, without opportunity for a full debate.

What used to be the subject of open and robust debate is now trivialized and treated as a mere formality, as a mere technical requirement to be dispensed with and discarded as quickly as it arrives.

The American people deserve better. Indeed, as I discovered while visiting with the people from one corner of Utah to the other, the American people demand that we do better. I think we can do better. In fact, I know we can. We have in the past. We will in the future, but we have to get the regular order appropriations process back on track.

We need to dispense, once and for all, with this mindset that says we are going to fund the government with one bill. You are going to have one opportunity to vote on any and all matters relating to the funding of the Federal Government. It is a binary choice. We fund everything at current levels or we fund nothing. We keep it running just the way it is with no opportunity for meaningful reform or we don't fund anything at all and we accept all of the heartache and all of the difficulty that goes along with this. This is wrong. It violates our laws and violates our procedures and it violates common sense.

We as a Congress have asked the American people over and over to expect less. I am here to tell each of my colleagues that it is time for the American people not to expect less. It is time for the American people to expect more. They are expecting more. They are expecting freedom. They are expecting for us to honor them by debating and discussing and voting on how we are going to spend their money.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The Senator from Montana.

THE AMERICAN DREAM

Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I was born during the baby boom in Butte, MT. It was a boom time for our economy. Millions of kids such as me grew up expecting the boom years to go on forever. Things weren't always easy, especially in a tough blue-collar town like Butte. But it was still easier in those days to believe that the American dream was within your grasp. Put in your time and you can earn a good living. Work hard and you can play hard.

Unfortunately, I am less confident in the American dream for today's young people unless politicians can put their partisanship aside and put the interests of this country ahead of their own. I am hopeful that this Congress can once again behave like statesmen from half a century ago, when the boom times of the 1960s also produced restraint. I grew up in the morning shadow of the continental divide. Butte was

surrounded by some of the best fly fishing in North America and huge areas of land known as primitive areas.

Some of those blue-ribbon streams were separated by the smallest of divides from the most polluted waters in America. Some of those primitive areas shared borders with the most valuable hard rock mines and timber cuts in the country. Those same resources continue to support thousands of jobs in Montana. But the boom times of the 1960s proved how wasteful and damaging unlimited production can be.

Today I applaud the lessons of restraint. This month is the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Wilderness Act. Senators on this same floor in 1964 turned the primitive areas and administrative wilderness areas of Montana and 12 other States into permanent protected areas.

That same year they also passed the visionary Land and Water Conservation Fund. Several of the original wilderness areas are in Montana, including one of the largest, the Bob Marshall Wilderness. In Montana we just call it the Bob. Imagine a Congress with the foresight to create a whole category of restraint. Anyone that says the American dream is gone for good has never visited the Bob.

Last month I had the opportunity to hike with a local group of Montanans up 2,000 feet to Headquarters Pass on the Rocky Mountain Front. On the trail, we met a herd of mountain goats. When we got to the pass, we stood under the windy shoulder of Rocky Mountain peaks and looked into the Bob.

Today I am the proud sponsor of an important made-in-Montana bill that would keep this land the way it is and add to the legacy of 1964. The Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act, first introduced three years ago, would protect almost 300,000 acres of public land. Today I urge my colleagues to move a public lands package forward this year in order to reward the collective efforts of so many Americans who work so hard on bills like the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act.

The American dream today has a new challenge because of the Wilderness Act. A small portion of our public lands has been set aside and made available forever for all Americans to enjoy in Montana. We call this our outdoor heritage. Despite news stories about the perennial and terrible idea of giving away this heritage, support for public lands in Montana remains deep and wide. The reason goes to the heart of what it means to be American. The American dream isn't just about having a job. It is about where we live and how we live.

In Montana, our public lands to support trout or elk or whatever adventure Montanans seek are part of that dream, whether they are a boilermaker, a teacher or an outfitter.

It doesn't hurt that tourism has become a huge part of our economy in Montana. Today outdoor recreation supports 64,000 jobs in our State and almost $6 billion in revenue each and every year. Like many Montanans, I am frustrated with how long it takes to conduct a timber sale or complete an environmental analysis on potential projects.

We need to get our forests healthy and working again, creating good jobs and making our forests more resilient to wildfires. Even simple projects get tied up in redtape and our rural communities and the land itself suffer for it. But this frustration should not blind us to our incredible heritage of untrampled public land owned by you and me and every American.

Rather than government shutdowns and public land selloffs, I urge this Congress to find the same wisdom to look ahead 50 years from today. We need to support local collaboration and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Bills such as the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act, the North Fork Watershed Protection Act, the East Rosebud Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act deserve every Senator's support.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. CORKER. It is my understanding the leader is on his way down. I have a unanimous consent request that I would like to offer. I know that he wants to say a word. I will preliminary make some comments. When he gets here, out of respect for his time, I will ask that unanimous consent request.

Let me move on by saying that the President gave a speech a week ago. We have a hearing today in the Foreign Relations Committee. Secretary Kerry and others will assess our strategy in Iraq and Syria related to ISIL.

I just want to say these obviously are very important decisions. One of the pieces of this strategy is that instead of the President coming and asking for an authorization for the use of military force—which, in my opinion, is the sound judgment, to come and ask us for that support so the American people are behind this effort, by virtue of the House and Senate taking that up. They are not going to do that. Instead they are asking for the authority to do a very, very small piece of that, which is to train and equip some members of the moderate, vetted Syrian opposition and to do so in the country of Saudi Arabia.

So they are asking for an authorization to do that overtly. It is something about which many people have questions. It is something that for many years, for some time, I have supported and actually been disappointed that the administration has left hanging the people of Syria whom we encourage now to take on Assad.

So that is a very important vote, a vote that all of us should take as a freestanding vote. But instead what is getting ready to happen is coming over from the House is a continuing resolution bill that funds the government. So instead of voting on the continuing resolution, which is a totally separate matter, and voting on arming the vetted moderate opposition the way the President has requested, as a separate vote so, No. 1, we have the opportunity individually to weigh in on those two measures separately, as the House is doing right now—instead, what is going to happen, as I understand from the majority leader, is we are going to take up that vote in a combined way. I think that is a poor way to run the Senate. It is a poor way for the people of the United States to understand where we are on important issues.

Just to give an example, I do not support the funding levels in the CR. I voted against the Murray-Ryan budget. I couldn't believe that in such a short amount of time we were willing to do away with the budget caps we thought so important to the fiscal well-being of this Nation. So I do not support the funding levels for the continuing resolution and had planned to vote against it.

Now there is a piece in it that is an important foreign policy piece that I think needs further debate, where we are authorizing the arming and training of the moderate opposition through December 11 as a part of this bill. That, to me, is an inappropriate way for us to do business. I think every Member of this body ought to have the opportunity to vote on each of those.

So the request I am going to make when the leader gets here is not to change any of the wordage—I realize time is of the essence. We have two bodies that sometimes do not act in concert in appropriate ways. But my unanimous consent request is to ask that properly these be separated, the language be identically the same.

So what I have done is I have at the desk a bill that lays out the authorization for arming and training the vetted moderate opposition in Saudi Arabia and other places. I have that exact language that is coming over from the House so that the Presiding Officer, myself, and others can weigh in on that issue. Once that issue is dealt with—again, it would take 15 or 20 or 30 minutes for that to occur—we could then move over to the continuing resolution, which, again, has a different set of supporters, generally speaking.

So I do wish this body would debate the issues of great importance to our Nation. I know that in this hearing with Secretary Kerry, on both sides of the aisle there are numerous questions about how this strategy is going to work in Syria and how, with no ground force on the ground and us planning to train people in a very short amount of time, a very small amount of people—we are not going to give them very sophisticated equipment—how that ground game, that ground effort is going to be effective. I wish this body would take that up and debate it. To me, it is an important issue. It is an

issue that I have supported for some time. At the same time, the efficacy of it has changed.

One of the things that is fascinating to me—General Dempsey yesterday: All of a sudden, we are going to train them.

By the way, they have been organized because they want Assad out. They have been fighting against Assad in Syria. But we are going to train them to fight ISIS or ISIL, which has not been the rallying entity for the Free Syrian Army to organize.

So, look, I plan to support publicly, as I am right now, this first phase of arming and training them because I have been pushing for it for so long. I worry about its efficacy. It seems as if the goals of it now are very different. But I am OK authorizing that until December 11 and we can hear more about it. But I do not support the funding levels in the CR. This is not an appropriate way for us to do business.

I am going to ask unanimous consent—I hope the majority leader is going to be here in a minute. I would like to get back to the hearing on Syria that we are having in foreign relations. I understand he may well be on the way.

With that—as a matter of fact, I may pause for a minute. Let me just make a point I made earlier with Secretary Kerry at the hearing. I do not want to debate whether the President has the legal authority to conduct a war, a multiyear war, a war that many people say may take up to a decade in another country against another enemy. I do not want to debate whether he legally can do that. I know he is tying himself to the 2001 authorization, which I assure you no one was contemplating. But I do not want to debate that. I know there are all kinds of article II people—all kinds of people who believe the President can do almost anything he wishes relative to military engagement.

I just want to talk about how lacking in judgment it is for three people—the President, the Vice President, and the Secretary of State—to attempt to do this over a multiyear period, in a different country, with a different enemy, and not come to us. That lacks in judgment. That lacks in judgment because bad things are going to happen. Mistakes are going to be made. Five hundred thirty-five Monday-morning quarterbacks make no sense. Holding the country together is what is important. So selling that plan, selling the details, having us have the opportunity to tease out and understand how this is going to work is an important part of the process that they are skipping.

I see the majority leader is here. I know he is busy. I thank him for coming to the floor.

I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the two leaders prior to the consideration of H.J. Res. 124, the CR, that the Senate proceed to the consideration of my bill—the exact same language as coming over from the House—which is at the desk—that is the same language as included in the CR regarding Syria; that there be up to 4 hours of debate followed by a vote on passage of my bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, my friend from Tennessee is a fine Senator. He has the interests of the State of Tennessee every step of the way and, of course, our country. So my statement here has nothing to do with the kind of man he is and the kind of Senator he is.

I have just left my office, where I watched the second of three votes in the House. The House has voted on the continuing resolution. It passed by an overwhelming margin over there. The purpose of that is to stop another government shutdown. The continuing resolution includes language on training and equipping the Syrian opposition. That bill will come over here in a matter of an hour or two. The House has chosen how it wishes to address these two matters; that is, the CR and arming and training the Syrian rebels.

As my colleagues know, in order to make a law, you need the Senate to pass something and the House to pass something or vice versa. Then, of course, it is signed by the President. They have to be identical. If we wish to prevent a government shutdown, we have to pass this continuing resolution the House will send us. I have had conversations with the Speaker, and he has been very strong in stating what they are going to do over there.

Senate committees are in the process—one of the committees the Senator from Tennessee is the ranking member of—in the process of holding hearings on whether an authorization to use force is necessary and if so, how it should be crafted. So I look forward to Foreign Relations deciding what legislative action to take on this matter. But in the meantime, we should pass the House-passed continuing resolution which includes the language on training and equipping the Syrian opposition and present the people here an up-or-down vote on what we get from the House of Representatives.

We cannot have another government shutdown. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I want to thank the leader for coming down and thank him for agreeing to a time when we both can be here.

I do want to say that we could deal with it exactly in the way that I laid out and keep the government from shutting down because we would be passing exactly the same language.

But I understand. I talked privately with the majority leader about this. I understand people do not want to do that over in this body. They do not want to separate the two. I know that the majority leader—that is his right, to object to dealing with these issues in the same language that I laid out. I do appreciate him coming down. I disagree very strongly with this approach.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I believe under the regular order that I will be recognized for up to 30 minutes. I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized.

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

ISIL THREAT

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, with all the things that are going on right now, I am particularly interested in the hearing we had yesterday on ISIS. It was a big deal. I applaud General Dempsey for his honesty in talking about how serious this war is that we are embarking on right now. The fact is that we have a mess, and ISIS has tripled in the last 3 months, up to now well over 30,000 troops, with tanks, heavy artillery.

This is not—I know the President has tried to make people believe this is just another rag-tag terrorist operation like Al Qaeda or the Taliban. It is not. This is war. This is a real serious thing that we are in the middle of.

I do applaud General Dempsey and also Secretary Hagel for their honesty in the committee hearing. It was difficult for them when the President talks about no troops on the ground, no troops on the ground. We know we already have troops on the ground.

I think the American people have had a wake-up call. I believe they understand how serious it is. In fact, there were two polls out last week. One of them was a poll that 70 percent of the American people know how serious this is and that ISIS could affect and would affect and is affecting our homeland. That was a big thing, that 70 percent of the people in America understand that. Just yesterday the Wall Street Journal poll came out, along with ABC, and they said the same thing: 70 percent of the people know this is something that affects our homeland.

When they talk about troops on the ground—I remember asking the question during the hearing yesterday. I said to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Martin Dempsey: If the President said no troops on the ground, what if your airstrikes—if something happens to one of those planes and we have the problem that one of the pilots is bailing out. Are you saying that we do not have troops on the ground to ensure his or her safety?

He said: Absolutely we will.

So the point is that has been a question that people have to understand, that this is war. We have to win it. We can't take another chance.

THE ECONOMY AND OVERREGULATION

But that is not why I am here. I think because of the distraction of ISIS and all of these other things, a lot of people have forgotten the serious problems that are hampering our economy; that is, what this President has done through the overregulation that takes

place. Since he first took office and failed to achieve his signature cap-and-trade legislation, he has been working tirelessly to try to do what he couldn't do through legislation with regulation. The regulations received most of the attention because they are the most expensive.

I first started in 2003, and I remember so much in the Senate. In 2003, at that time Republicans had a majority. I was the chair of the committee that had the jurisdiction. They started off in 2003 with the first cap-and-trade legislation, and we defeated it. We defeated it ever since that time. One reason we defeated it was I was able to find out—and I didn't know this in the beginning—that people said: Global warming is real, there are all these bad things, and we are all going to die.

Yet from the costs we determined—and this came not just from me but from others who were interested, but universities such as MIT came out with a study, the Wharton School of Economics came out with one, and Charles River Associates. They all had the cost of this cap-and-trade somewhere between $300 billion and $400 billion a year.

Every time I hear a large figure, I look at the population in my State of Oklahoma and see what that cost means to a family. In my State of Oklahoma, $300 billion to $400 billion a year would be a permanent tax increase for the average family in Oklahoma—that files a Federal income tax—of $3,000 a year.

When we get to these numbers, we look and we realize this is going to be very expensive and no one wants anything to do with greenhouse regulations when the cost is so high.

I will show later on that it wouldn't accomplish anything, anyway. That is probably why the recent polls, such as the Gallup poll on global warming, have it on the bottom of the national priority list. Their last poll is a poll of 15 things to be most concerned about, and global warming and climate change registered No. 14 out of 15.

The people have understood—it is as if they understand now what is going on with ISIS. They know what the truth is.

The Pew Research Center showed that 53 percent of Americans either don't believe that global warming and climate change are occurring or they say if it is, it is natural causes.

This has been going on. This is what has bothered me. I can remember—and I am going from memory now—but I used to use the example, back when we first started looking at this subject, as to how this is a cyclone that has been going on for recorded history.

In 1895, we were in a cooling period, basically. They were referring to it as the little ice age at that time—I could be wrong. But, anyway, that endured until 1918. Then in 1918, it turned into a warming time and that went all the way up through 1945.

This is what is significant. In 1945, we started another cooling period. It happened that 1945 was the year that was recorded as the year when it had the highest amount of CO_2 emissions, and that precipitated not a warming period but a cooling period. Of course, that went on up to about 1975 when we went to the other side, where we have actually entered into a cooling area. Everybody knows that.

God is still up there. We have always had these seasons. People would like to think somehow it is man who is doing it. They don't want any progress. They don't want people to be able to generate electricity and energy to take care of our needs.

While my friends on the other side of the aisle act as though public debate has been settled on the issue, obviously it is just the opposite of that. It probably explains why it has been difficult for Tom Steyer to raise the full $100 million he promised to help Democrats win elections this fall.

We remember in February that he announced he would put up $50 million of his own money—and then he did—and that he would raise another $50 million. It would be $100 million that he would put in campaigns for incumbents who would agree to try to resurrect the global warming issue—because it has died in the eyes of the American people—and try to stop the pipeline.

He did this, and the trouble is he is not able to raise the other $50 million. The last count was it is only $1.7 million he has been able to raise from outside donors. Nonetheless, of course, he has his own $50 million. Regardless, we know he is spending the money he has, even though he hasn't raised other money.

We can see on this chart a quote where he said—that is a picture of Tom Steyer. He is not a bad guy and all of that, he is just far left, and he has a lot of money. He said:

> It is true that we expect to be heavily involved in the midterm elections. . . . we are looking at a bunch of . . . races. . . . My guess is that we'll end up being involved in eight or more races.

So Tom Steyer's goal is, as I said, to try to resurrect the global warming issue and try to stop the Keystone Pipeline.

I think it is an appropriate time to talk about the hypocrisy on the left over political spending. We spent all of last week debating a constitutional amendment to limit political speech that is currently protected under the First Amendment. Democrats are talking about the Koch brothers, and people are not aware that this type of activity was from a man named Tom Steyer, by his own admission.

Someone asked me the other day—I think we were on the floor. I was the only Republican to come down. It was kind of fun. They were having their all-night session. I made the statement: If there is anyone with insomnia at home who is not asleep yet, this is a good way to do it. I made the comment that this is something we know is going on.

I stated that with all these races that are out there, they are trying to do something in order to elect people to try to go back to what they failed to be able to get. I think it is an appropriate time to get through that hypocrisy.

Recent news reports have surfaced and described the Democracy Alliance. That is an organization that aims to organize the policy objectives and funding streams of the leftwing liberal establishment.

According to an internal memo that was leaked to the press a few weeks ago, the Democracy Alliance for the past 9 years ''has aligned donors, leaders in the progressive movement, [that is liberal] and political infrastructure in order to achieve victories at the ballot box and in policy fights including those for comprehensive health care reform, Supreme Court confirmations . . . ''

This influence is estimated to be between $600 million and $700 million.

The Washington Post recently had this chart. It is kind of hard to read, but in the Post it was obvious because each one of those dots is a liberal political organization. They all joined together and that is called the Democracy Alliance.

Again, this was 161 plus 21—182 organizations are part of this alliance. It details all of their agendas and how they are being coordinated by the political Democratic agenda by the Democracy Alliance. We will recognize most of the names on the list. It includes the Center for American Progress, Media Matters for America, America Votes, and even Organizing for Action which, incidentally, is President Obama's political campaign arm.

In April, this group convened a secret meeting in Chicago to huddle with its deep-pocketed donors to craft a strategy in messaging for this coming year's elections. It was shrouded in secrecy, and the memo prepared for attendees—all the people on this list who were coming in to meet in Chicago—warned them of interacting with political reporters. In fact, it included a pages-long list of reporters who are expected to try to crash the conference, along with the photos, so folks could be on the watch for these people.

The names of the people attending and involved were not going to be disclosed to the public, nor would any details be released about the discussions that were taking place.

Tom Steyer and the Democracy Alliance are acting like a cult, even as the Democratic left pushes for the institution of a new constitutional amendment. We now know that initiative was nothing more than a political sham.

At the end of the day, the liberal left wants an aggressive, secretive, political machine operating on its behalf, and it looks as though they have what they need in the Democracy Alliance.

The key selling point for the Democracy Alliance pitch to its contributors is the inseparable link to the deep connections with the Obama White House administration. The Democracy Alliance firmly believes it is in the driver's

seat when it comes to setting policy for liberals in Washington, and it wants its donors to know it.

There is nothing wrong with this. We have had differences of opinion and philosophy, and that is why we have political parties. This is more extreme than anything I have seen and more organized.

One of the key goals of the Democracy Alliance is to promote ''an environment that keeps our kids safe.'' This explains why the administration continues to push an extremist agenda of environmental mandates that will crush our economy.

This is where Tom Steyer has really succeeded in being part of the Democracy Alliance. He has managed to convince Democrats in the Senate to hold more than one all-night vigil on global warming, and these have come as the United States has been enduring one of its coldest years yet.

Just this month so far, NOAA, of the Commerce Department, has reported 246 record cold temperatures. Wyoming already has right now 20 inches of snow in some places, and it is unseasonably cold in Washington, DC.

One of these colder areas, my city of Tulsa, OK, on Saturday set a record cool high temperature. It only reached 65 degrees. It has never happened before, so it is not cooperating very well with trying to convince people the world is coming to an end because of global warming.

It also explains why the President is continuing to aggressively try to implement greenhouse regulations after failing to accomplish this goal legislatively. These regulations will effectively prevent any coal-fired powerplant from being constructed and force our Nation into relying substantially on expensive renewable resources.

Regulations such as these would take us in the direction of Europe, which in many instances has experienced electricity prices three times as high as they are in the United States. They have been ahead of us in trying to stop fossil fuels and in trying to stop nuclear energy. The rates their people are paying are now three times higher than ours.

If anyone doubts these rules will have a negative impact on our economy, just look at Australia. Australia imposed a carbon tax on their economy a few years ago and it caused horrendous damage. It caused $9 billion in lost economic activity per year and destroyed tens of thousands of jobs. This is in Australia. This just happened. It was so bad that the government in Australia recently voted to repeal the carbon tax. Remember all the talk about the fact: Oh, Australians are leading the way and they are going to have a carbon tax, we should be following them. Now they have repealed that by an overwhelming vote and their economy is now better for it. In fact, it was announced last week that Australia experienced record job growth last month of 121,000 jobs. They said this is because they have repealed this carbon tax they had passed. They credit this success to the repeal of the carbon tax in addition to these greenhouse regulations.

I think it is important for us to recall the many other regulations this Obama administration has already imposed on the American people and discuss all of the new regulations that have not yet come out, but they are working on it. Some of these regulations they are holding off until after the elections so the people would not know the cost of the regulations and how many jobs are going to be lost.

The first we need to remember is Utility MACT. By the way, MACT means maximum achievable controlled technology. In other words, what technology has told us we could do to try to control these releases.

Utility MACT was the first one they successfully passed. In this case, the EPA established a standard that was impossible for utilities to actually meet.

This regulation is inappropriate under the Clean Air Act, and it is having a $100 billion annual impact on the economy and destroying 1.65 million jobs. They have already done it. They were able to pass it along party lines.

The EPA has already finalized similar regulations for industrial boilers and cement kilns. Together, those regulations are having an impact of more than $63 billion on the economy and they have destroyed 800,000 jobs and may result in the shutdown of 18 cement plants around the country. No one has refuted these figures.

In another section of the law, the EPA put a rule together, knowing it would increase the cost of gas. The rule is known as the Tier 3 rule, and it regulates the amount of sulfur that can be in gasoline when it leaves the refinery.

Tier 2 standards were put in place back in the early 2000s. That resulted in a 90-percent decline in the sulfur content of gasoline by 2010. That is already behind us, and it had a positive, measurable impact on the environment.

The need for a Tier 3 standard is not articulated very well. In fact, EPA did not have any unique scientific data to support the key benefits of this rule, and the EPA ignored the fact that it would actually increase greenhouse gas emissions. So they are going to increase greenhouse gas emissions with the rule they are still putting forth and be counterproductive. Talking about the Tier 3 rule, EPA stated that ''this rule will increase the cost of gasoline.''

Furthermore, the EPA recently finalized a rule called the 316(b) water rule. This rule regulates the cooling water systems used by powerplants and other major industrial facilities to prevent their operations from overheating. So they use water. The EPA and the Fish and Wildlife Service were worried about the impact these facilities were having on fish, and so they put out a rule to help. In the rulemaking, EPA again states that ''the final rule will increase electricity costs.''

Worse is the fact that EPA could not even fudge its numbers enough to present a positive cost-benefit ratio. In its final rule, the stated costs are $300 million, which is about 10 times the estimated benefits of the rule, which are only $28.6 million. This violates the President's own Executive Order 13563, which states that agencies must ''propose or adopt a regulation only upon a reasoned determination that its benefits justify its costs.''

That is another problem we have with this administration. They will add rules, they will add laws, and they violate these laws—just like when he turned loose the five terrorists from Gitmo. We had passed, in fact, knowing he was going to try to get rid of people in Gitmo—and he took the five who were the very worst—we had passed a law saying he can't do that until he gives the Senate Armed Services Committee 30 days' notice and gives us a chance to respond and stop him from doing it. He totally ignored it, just as he ignored these regulations.

Worse yet, this rule has no human health benefits. Its only beneficiaries are fish. So EPA is putting out a rule that will increase electricity costs, including for those who live on fixed incomes, all for the sake of saving a few fish.

Another rule EPA has done since President Obama began his administration is the regional haze rule. These regulations were established to improve the visibility of national parks, and States were instructed to develop their own plans—known as State implementation plans—in order to comply. My State of Oklahoma did this, but EPA overturned it because of a technicality associated with its economic analysis. When EPA did this, it instituted a Federal implementation plan, and in this case it cost over $1 billion to execute or nearly 10 times the amount of the State-based plan that had been developed cooperatively with our utility companies. This is the kind of uncooperative relationship we have come to expect when working with the EPA.

Beyond the greenhouse gas regulations, the one receiving the most attention is the waters of the United States rule. Nearly every group from Oklahoma is talking about this rule because it would extend the powers of the Federal Government over millions of new acres of land.

Just last week I was in Guymon, OK; El Reno, OK; and Boise City, OK. Boise City is the farthest west, largest city out in the panhandle. It is kind of sandwiched between Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas, and Texas. They are all in western Oklahoma. This is an arid part of the country. They are in their third year of their drought right now, but the new rule would declare much of this area as a Federal waterway subject to the onerous Federal regulations. This would impact every industry—farming, ranching, oil and gas,

construction, transportation—everything.

Tom Buchanan happens to be the president of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau. I asked him a question in a kind of townhall setting that we had not too long ago.

I said: What is the biggest problem we have in agriculture in Oklahoma?

He said: The biggest problem has nothing to do with the farm bill. The biggest problem we are facing right now is the overregulation by the EPA and what they are doing with endangered species, what they are doing with the containment of fuel on farms, what they are doing with the water rules they have. That is the biggest problem.

I was with Terry Detrick, president of the American Farmers and Ranchers, and he agrees that the biggest problem farmers in America are having right now is the overregulation of the EPA.

The EPA has said it will work with industries to make sure it works for them, but we know from experience this won't be possible. It is not going to happen. Their goal is to take over, to control and leave no room for negotiation.

Another devastating regulation being developed by the EPA is the ozone NAAQS standard. NAAQS means national ambient air quality standard. It was last set at the end of the Bush administration at 75 parts per billion. The EPA has been working since President Obama took over the White House to lower this standard.

In 2011 the President cancelled EPA's plans to lower the ozone standard because it was going to hurt his reelection chances. But now that he has secured that reelection, he is ready to start it up again.

The EPA staff and the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee—CASAC—recently recommended that the Administrator propose to lower the NAAQS level to between 60 and 70 parts per billion.

This chart shows how much of the Nation would be out of attainment if EPA lowers the standard to 60 parts per billion. In Oklahoma, all 77 counties would be out of attainment. What does that mean? I was mayor of the city of Tulsa once when it was out of attainment. We were not able to increase populations in many of our businesses.

It essentially means the EPA will have to issue a regulatory permit for any business expansion plans that could increase emission levels. It would make business expansion enormously expensive and would dramatically increase the power of the EPA. All told, this rule would put nearly 94 percent of the counties' populations of the United States of America out of attainment zones and would cede our economic superiority to the likes of China and India.

Zooming in to more industry-focused regulations, the EPA has been the main culprit in the President's war on fossil fuels. Hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling have opened up dramatic new oil and natural gas resources in this country that no one thought we would ever be able to profitably extract.

By the way, hydraulic fracturing was actually developed in my State of Oklahoma, in Duncan, OK, in 1949. So this is something that is going on. In spite of this, they are trying to use hydraulic fracturing to stop the successful increases we have been able to have in the wells.

Lisa Jackson was the first EPA Administrator under Barack Obama. I remember asking her the question: If we were to do something with hydraulic fracturing, has there ever been a documented case in the United States that hydraulic fracturing is damaging to groundwater?

She said: No, it is not. There has never been—her actual exact words—any proven case where the fracking process itself has affected water.

So if we eliminate this, it is not going to save anything because it is not going to create any problems. And this doesn't come from me; it comes from the Administrator of the EPA, appointed by President Obama. Regardless, the EPA is moving full force to regulate hydraulic fracturing. At one point during the administration, there were a total of 13 different agencies working to do this. The Bureau of Land Management is one of them. It is my understanding that their regulations are being finalized, and it could cost producers as much as $100,000 per well. Keep in mind that every time they talk about what it is going to cost industry or business, that is passed on to the public.

The EPA is also working to regulate methane emissions from across the oil and natural gas industry. Whether it is the upstream producers during the drilling and completion process, the midstream pipeline operators, or the downstream retail distributors, EPA is convinced that the industry is willingly allowing their valuable product to seep into the atmosphere without any concern or awareness of where it is.

EPA's methane strategy is part of the President's overall climate change action plan, and the Agency recently published white papers outlining its understanding of methane leaks in the industry, and they were not very impressive.

I recently wrote EPA and the White House to express my concern with these papers. I was shocked that the papers seemed to lack any comprehensive understanding of the industry's operational practices. I was also disappointed that EPA didn't consider many of the regulatory hurdles in place which actually prevent producers from installing the technology and infrastructure that would reduce methane emissions. I am hopeful that EPA will take my recommendations seriously before moving forward.

So we have two problems. Right now we could be totally independent of any other country. All we have to do is do what every other country in the world does; that is, exploit our own resources. This President has made it impossible for us to get into public lands and to get this done.

Then, of course, we have the problem of overregulation. In all, the administration's regulatory agenda is intended to shut down the engine of America's economy. They have already shut down coal. Now they are working on oil and natural gas.

What they have done so far is just a preview. But the liberal environmentalists—Tom Steyer, Bill McKibben, Democracy Alliance—must all be frustrated by what is going on right now. Temperatures are not going up, they are going down. Nobody seems to care. No one has any desire to implement the policies they want. Polling is all showing they have lost this battle. That is exactly why they are willing to spend between $600 million and $700 million on this year's elections—to convince the American people to elect Members who will support the President's regulations, which will shut down the economy.

One more thing, going back to global warming. Earlier I said that back in 2002 when we discussed the costs of it, being between $300 billion and $400 billion, as the largest tax increase in history, a permanent tax increase, I asked the question to Lisa Jackson—again, she was the Administrator of the EPA, appointed by Barack Obama—I said: If we were to pass these cap-and-trade regulations or bills or do it by regulation, would this have the result of lowering CO_2 emissions?

She said: No, because this isn't where the problem is. The problem is in China, it is in India, it is in Mexico, it is in other places.

In fact, one could use the argument that it would actually have the effect of increasing emissions because as we chase away our base, the manufacturing base will go to countries like China and India, where they don't have any restrictions on emissions at all.

I think it is important to remind the people that even though that era is almost gone and people realize that is something that was very popular at one time, now the polls show that people have caught on. But keep in mind that what the President could not do through legislation he is now doing through regulations, and regulations, as we pointed out, are the greatest problem our economy is facing today, and this is something we are going to have to change.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington State.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank and the legislation that we are soon going to be seeing on a continuing resolution that was just voted on by the House of

Representatives. While I am happy that there is a CR—a continuing resolution—that keeps our government open, I am very distressed with the fact that the House is sending us a simple 9-month extension of the Export-Import Bank to expire June 30 of next year.

The reason why that is so frustrating to me and many of my colleagues over here is because this is a jobs issue. It is about our economy, and we have heard today at various venues throughout the Capitol how people are actually losing jobs right now because of the uncertainty of the Export-Import Bank. So I know that some of my colleagues in the House of Representatives—Republicans—are proud they have helped to reauthorize the bank for 9 months. Make no mistake about it; this will cost us jobs in the United States of America during that time period.

We had a press conference today. I was proud to be joined by my colleagues Senator KIRK, Senator GRAHAM, Senator MANCHIN, and various leaders in the energy industry—the Nuclear Energy Institute; Combustion Associates, Inc.; Itron, which is a company in the Northwest; Westinghouse; and FirmGreen—to talk about how many energy jobs are dependent upon the Export-Import Bank. You can see from this chart: 46,000 U.S. energy jobs and $7.7 billion in energy exports.

Just last year these transactions helped these energy jobs in the United States of America by putting investments in projects overseas. That is why we want to see a long-term reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. While this uncertainty exists in the continuing resolution, all you are going to do is to exclude U.S. companies from closing deals. That is because a credit agency is critical to U.S. companies actually being at the table.

We heard from one firm today, FirmGreen, that they were actually excluded from participating and getting a deal simply because of the uncertainty of the Ex-Im Bank: A credit agency guaranteeing financing the deal was not at the table and we lost out to an Asian competitor. So during these 9 months of uncertainty, that is exactly what is going to happen to more U.S. companies. They are going to lose out on these energy jobs that we are looking for overseas.

I am talking about things that are part of our energy strategy—everything from Sub-Saharan Africa, wind turbines in Central America, and powerplants in Africa to various investments in the nuclear facilities. A short-term 9-month extension doesn't provide a large enough window for companies to build a pipeline, to construct a wind turbine or to develop a nuclear facility. So it will hurt us by slowing down on these energy projects just at a time when we are trying to fund the training of troops to combat ISIS. We are going to be creating uncertainty in places such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Iraq on water projects, construction projects, and road projects that might not get done because U.S. companies won't be able to get the financing of a credit agency. So this is a national security issue, and we are already hearing from exporters about this.

Mr. President, I would like to submit for the RECORD a list of 30 different newspapers with editorials supporting the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NEWSPAPERS ENDORSING EX–IM REAUTHORIZATION

1. New York Times
2. USA Today
3. Los Angeles Times
4. Chicago Tribune
5. Boston Globe
6. Miami Herald
7. Houston Chronicle
8. Seattle Times
9. Columbus Dispatch
10. Akron Beacon-Journal
11. Milwaukee Journal-Constitution
12. Wichita Eagle
13. Winfield Daily Courier (KS)
14. The Hartford Courant
15. The Fort Myers News-Press (FL)
16. Crain's Detroit Business
17. Scranton Times-Tribune
18. Lancaster Intelligencer Journal (PA)
19. Rock Hill Herald (SC)
20. Greenville News (SC)
21. Orangeburg Times and Democrat (SC)
22. Beaumont Enterprise (TX)
23. San Antonio Express-News (TX)
24. Roanoke Times
25. The Columbian (WA)
26. Tacoma News Tribune
27. The Spokesman-Review
28. The Olympian
29. The Puget Sound Business Journal
30. Bellingham Herald

Ms. CANTWELL. The Roanoke Times was one of those newspapers. It typifies what companies are saying, that ''to really increase manufacturing jobs, you need to increase exports.''

That is why we feel so strongly about this. The Roanoke Times also said:

> It's a global economy. Policymakers need to put U.S. manufacturers on an even playing field with foreign competitors in emerging markets, not take them out of the game.

That is exactly what happens when we give a short-term reauthorization for 9 months. No deal of this size and magnitude with energy companies gets done in a 9-month period of time. It takes the bank basically 3 months just for the processing. The discussion of being at the table, closing the deal, and competing with your competitors takes much longer, and no one is going to be interested in closing a deal when they don't know whether the bank is going to continue to exist.

That is why other newspapers such as the Times-Picayune has said that one of their companies—basically a CEO of Reliable Industries of New Orleans—said: ''The Export-Import Bank is a major reason his firm has built an export business with 600 customers in 60 countries.''

I say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and the other side of the Capitol who don't understand business: The notion that you don't get is that the export opportunities for our economy are the biggest chances to grow GDP in America, and you are foreclosing on that for the next 9 months because you are creating uncertainty and unpredictability.

Well, you know what I say to that? You are basically shipping jobs overseas. That is exactly what you are doing. You are participating in shipping jobs overseas because you don't want to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that the United States right now in manufacturing has a supply chain of small businesses all throughout the United States that help in the farm economy in building farm equipment, help in the aerospace industry building airplanes and airplane-related products, and in the energy economy, as we focused on today at our press conference. All of these suppliers, when they cannot get financing for their products, are going to look to overseas suppliers who can get support from the credit agencies in their country, whether that is China, whether that is in France or whether its in Germany or other countries. So people who don't support giving predictability on the Export-Import Bank are supporting shipping jobs overseas.

Our economy is struggling too much and our national security interests are at stake to be shipping jobs overseas and not having the investments in these countries such as Iraq and Egypt and other places where we want to build security. I believe in the long-term interest of fighting our challenges with extremism around the globe with economic power. I know people are going to talk about military power and people are going to talk about soft power. I believe in economic power. Having an Export-Import Bank that is doing business like building roads and building water and building energy facilities actually helps to stabilize these areas of the world.

I am glad to see that General Petraeus also agrees. General Petraeus basically said that the Ex-Im Bank ''is integral to our country's security interests.'' Integral—he has watched this on the ground and he knows and understands what the Export-Import Bank is, and he is asking us to give it more certainty and predictability than what a 9-month extension does, because, as I said, business deals cannot get done in that short a period of time. Here is a person who understands these issues both from a military perspective and an economic perspective. I wish more of my colleagues would understand that they are basically just shipping jobs overseas.

Newspapers around the country are continuing to try to help echo this issue. The Charlotte Business Journal said: ''Executives say the Ex-Im Bank is a key to a competitive U.S. nuclear industry.'' They have been trying to focus on this issue.

The Boston Globe said: ''Billions will be lost unless Congress reauthorizes

the Export-Import Bank.'' It also went on to call exactly what this game is that is happening right here and now in Washington, DC. The Boston Globe in their editorial in support of a longer reauthorization said: ''Conservative hardliners rallying to shut down the agency are risking a serious, self-inflicted economic wound.''

That is because we don't have to be at this point. If you want to talk about reforms for the Ex-Im Bank, we have a lot of opportunity to do that, but hardliners don't want to reauthorize the bank.

Having been in business, I am somebody who believes in trend lines. I would ask my colleagues who are going home and thinking they are going to campaign about jobs to ask themselves what kind of message are they sending to the global community about the Export-Import Bank when just a few years ago an agency that should have a 5-year reauthorization was only reauthorized for 2 years—just 2 years. Now you are going to go into the international community and say, wait a minute, we only believe in this bank for 9 months. So the trend line is it used to be 5 years. For basically about 80 years it used to be 5 years, but because the conservative tea party people are having their way—not the majority of the people in the House but the tea party conservatives are having their way—this has gone from a 5-year reauthorization to a 2-year reauthorization to now a 9-month reauthorization. Who knows what they will propose next. We know they don't support the bank. We know they want to get rid of it.

I think the Charlotte Business Journal, again, characterized this issue very well because they know this industry: ''The United States will lose its lead in nuclear technology if it is not involved in the construction boom overseas.''

You are not going to be very involved in the construction boom over the next 9 months because you are not going to be able to get people to close long-term deals when they think the other side of the aisle just wants to kill the Export-Import Bank.

I think the Columbian in my State said it best. They said: ''While complaining about the Ex-Im Bank might make for sound bites that pander to conservatives, in the end it amounts to legislative negligence.''

They are talking in general about those who want to kill the Export-Import Bank, but the very day that the House proposed a 9-month extension, the Republican study group also proposed killing the Export-Import Bank. So make no mistake about it, there are those who are pandering to very conservative views who basically just want to end the Export-Import Bank.

Thank God we have other businesses in this country. The Louisville Courier-Journal said: ''When a small company is attempting to navigate the international marketplace, it can be difficult to manage the risks related to financing and growth and securing payment.''

That is a local company in Louisville, KY, that knows what it takes to compete in an international marketplace. That industry leader also said that the Ex-Im Bank has helped them manage the risk and as a result their export business has grown strong in recent years. That is what is at stake for these small businesses and supply chains to getting this business done.

I think for us right now the challenge is to try to get people to understand that a 9-month extension is not going to solve this problem. It is going to exacerbate the lack of confidence in our ability to get this bank reauthorized for a long period of time.

The Wichita Eagle editorial also added a this great comment: ''Failure of Congress to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank would be a philosophical victory for some—but a badly timed blow to Kansas companies trying to compete in the global marketplace.'' They went on to say to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.

So, while I know the House is sending us 9 months, and I know that some people are trying to take comfort that they have dodged this issue instead of taking a really hard vote on it or improving the bank, all they have done is left the marketplace with a great deal of uncertainty.

It will cost us jobs; it will shift jobs overseas, and Congress—here in the Senate we need to act to get a long-term reauthorization for the Ex-Im Bank.

The Wichita paper had it right. Reauthorize this bank—not a short-term Band-Aid, but give the certainty that businesses need to compete in the global economy and help our economy at home by growing jobs.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, over the last hour or so I had the good fortune to hear the junior Senator from Washington, Ms. CANTWELL, describe what is happening with the Ex-Im Bank, and it is not good for the country.

The Ex-Im Bank is so very important to the Presiding Officer's State. The State of Connecticut benefits tremendously from the Ex-Im Bank, as do the small manufacturing businesses in the State of Nevada.

As Senator CANTWELL said, it is a shame we are shipping more jobs overseas, and by not extending the Ex-Im Bank long term, that is what we are doing. She is such an advocate for this program which is so important to our country. I underline and underscore everything she said this afternoon. I am so disappointed we are not able to have a long-term extension of the Ex-Im Bank. It is very important, and it is too bad we are not going to do that.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 124

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 124, which was received from the House and is at the desk, at 1 p.m. on Thursday, September 18; that following the reporting of the joint resolution, the majority leader be recognized; that there be up to 4½ hours equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, there be no other motions or points of order in order to the joint resolution other than a Sessions or designee motion to table or a budget point of order and the applicable motion to waive; that Senator SESSIONS or designee be recognized for a motion to table an amendment to the joint resolution; that if the motion to table is agreed to, the majority leader be recognized; that if the motion to table is not agreed to, and notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on H.J. Res. 124; that if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be considered expired, the pending amendments be withdrawn, the joint resolution be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the joint resolution.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ADVANCING WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Mr. LEAHY. Next year, the Nation will celebrate the 95th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave women, at long last, the right to vote. The result of more than four decades of advocacy from such giants of the women's equality movement as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the amendment was merely a first step in advancing women's rights.

Since the ratification of the 19th Amendment, there has been considerable progress in the march for gender equality. The President's Commission on the Status of Women, established by President Kennedy and directed by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, in part led to formation of the National Organization for Women. NOW's core issues include two on which this Congress has been rightly focused: ending violence against women, and promoting economic justice.

The country last week celebrated the 20th anniversary of the enactment of

the Violence Against Women Act. This landmark law shined a light on the scourge of domestic violence and improved the criminal justice system's response to these cases. Last year, Congress again came together to reauthorize and strengthen VAWA to address the evolving needs of domestic and sexual violence victims, and to ensure that those protections are available to all victims, regardless of sexual orientation, ethnicity, race or gender. The VAWA reauthorization law, which I was proud to author, was just one example of how we must continue to build on the historic work of past years in advancing equal rights and opportunities for American women.

And earlier this week, the Senate yet again tried to move forward with legislation to address pay equality. Building on more than 50 years of progress, starting with the Civil Rights Act, which barred employment discrimination based on race and gender, and on the heels of the 2009 Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, the Paycheck Fairness Act would take a significant step toward ensuring a balanced and equal environment for women in the workplace. Unfortunately, for the fourth time, partisan objections have prevented the Senate from advancing this legislation to hold employers accountable and to protect employees from retaliation for discussing their salaries with colleagues. Vermont has adopted its own Equal Pay Act, making it illegal for employers to offer anything less than equal pay for equal work. Still, in Vermont, where 22,000 households are headed by women, the yearly gender pay gap is nearly $6,000. More needs to be done, and we can do better.

This year, Vermont will mark two important anniversaries. Thirty years ago, Vermont voters sent the first woman in our history to the State House to serve as Governor. Madeleine Kunin, a trailblazer in Vermont, served for 6 years as Governor, before becoming a Deputy Secretary of Education in the Clinton Administration. As a child, she fled the threat of the Holocaust, leaving Switzerland with her family for the hope and promise of America. She returned to the country that she had been forced to flee when President Clinton appointed her to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland. She continues to lead and inspire as an author, educator, mentor to women in politics, and tireless advocate for women's rights.

Later this year, the Vermont Women's Fund will celebrate 20 years of supporting women, both in the workplace and at home. The Fund helps women overcome economic hardships to live secure and successful lives. The Fund guides young women to opportunities in nontraditional career paths and propels future leaders to reach their goals. As we well know, when women are given an equal opportunity, their achievements are elevated. When women are given equal opportunities, they thrive and often rise to the top. When women are given a fair shot, their contributions at home, in the workplace and in our communities make us all better. The Vermont Women's Fund, with its diverse and representative council, works to establish and preserve that progress for Vermonters.

In the nearly 95 years since the Nation came together to belatedly extend the right to vote to women, we have made considerable strides in advancing gender equality. More than two dozen women lead Fortune 500 companies, an achievement once viewed as unattainable to young women entering the workforce. Women have risen to some of the highest ranks in our government. Women now comprise a majority of students enrolled in college. In Vermont, we are proud of our history in advancing women's rights. Leaders like Madeleine Kunin, and programs like the Vermont Women's Fund, are shining examples of why Vermont is a leader in this social progress for women and our entire society. And we are proud to be a national leader in the advancement of women. Congress, and the country, can learn and benefit from Vermont's trailblazing example.

RECOGNIZING THE CHRISTIAN APPALACHIAN PROJECT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Christian Appalachian Project, CAP, an organization that is celebrating 50 years of dedicated service to the people of Appalachia.

CAP was started by the Reverend Ralph Beiting in Eastern Kentucky. Reverend Beiting was a Catholic priest assigned to an area of Kentucky that had no Catholic church, and the organization grew out of his ability to help those in need without the organizational structure of an established church. In 1964, he started a summer camp for boys on Herrington Lake in Garrard County, thus launching the Christian Appalachian Project's now 50-year legacy.

Since that summer of 1964, CAP has grown into the Nation's 16th-largest human services charity. Among the services CAP provides are home repair and reconstruction, disaster relief, clothing drives, food relief, and—a sure sign that some things never change—summer camps.

CAP employs 160 people and has around 50 long-term volunteers. This is in addition to the host of volunteers that are drawn to community service projects like Grateful Bread, Grateful Threadz, and WorkFest.

CAP has touched the lives of thousands in Appalachia and is a model for how organizations can serve their communities. I therefore I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in honoring the Christian Appalachian Project.

Kentucky Living published an article in their September 2014 issue profiling the Christian Appalachian Project. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Kentucky Living, Sept. 2014]

BRINGING HELP AND HOPE: HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH THE CHRISTIAN APPALACHIAN PROJECT—NOW CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE—BRING RESIDENTS OF APPALACHIA DIGNITY, SELF-WORTH, AND RENOVATED HOMES.

(By Debra Gibson Isaacs)

It wasn't supposed to snow. After all, it was spring break for the college students who had wound their way into rural eastern Kentucky from across the nation. But the snow was just one of many surprises this week, and like the others, it was easily, joyfully accepted.

The students were in Kentucky for WorkFest, one of an array of programs serving the most basic needs of the region's most vulnerable residents—children and families, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities—conducted by the Christian Appalachian Project, or CAP as the nonprofit organization is affectionately known. CAP provides home repair and reconstruction, food, disaster relief, crisis intervention, child development, summer camps, family advocacy, domestic violence shelters, in-home respite, clothing, and programs for the elderly.

With help from hundreds of volunteers, CAP has renovated 362 homes in Floyd, Jackson, Rockcastle, Clay, Owsley, McCreary, Martin, Lawrence, and other counties during WorkFest since the annual event began in 1992. On this day in March, CAP volunteers were in Rockcastle County working on four homes.

One was the home of Vincent, a member of Jackson Energy Cooperative. Vincent had returned to Kentucky from 11 years working for the military to find his home in need of far more work than he could accomplish alone and with little money.

''I am like the Beverly Hillbillies,'' 48-year-old Vincent joked, his green eyes smiling above his mustache, a bandana on his head and two earrings piercing his left ear. ''I packed up everything I owned in my truck and came home. This is home. I always come back home.''

But home had a bathroom floor that had rotted out. The living room floor was also gone. The roof leaked. Windows had to be replaced. Plumbing needed repair. The front porch was close to falling down. The modest home was barely habitable. Still, no one seemed to see the problems; they were focused on the solutions.

Seeing the solution rather than the problem is standard fare for CAP, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary all year from now until August 2015. Started by the Rev. Ralph Beiting, a Catholic priest assigned to a slice of eastern Kentucky without a single Catholic church at the time, CAP grew from Beiting's ingenuity in helping those around him. At first Beiting would travel to northern Kentucky, where friends and church families would donate all kinds of goods and clothes, and he would distribute them to those in need. His outsized personality soon led him into the hearts of the people, and that led him to try to meet the many needs he found.

The first official CAP project came in 1964—a summer camp for boys on Herrington Lake in Garrard County. Beiting went on to develop the concept for finding ways to help people help themselves. He named his ministry the Christian Appalachian Project and declared it would be ''a group that would roll up our sleeves and get the job done.''

That same work ethic and dedication continues today, 50 years later, as the Christian

Appalachian Project goes about improving the lives of those in Appalachia.

''Cut it like this,'' instructs Jay G. Dresser, a CAP volunteer for 15 years, as he takes a power saw from one of the students to demonstrate how to notch a 2x4. A few feet away, students are in the bathroom ripping up rotted flooring while another group works in the bedroom. It is dark and nippy inside the modest home, but no one seems to notice as a happy cacophony of saws, hammers, and laughter fills the house.

''That's better,'' Dresser encourages. ''Push this. Now pull the plate all the way out. Now stand it up and let me reset the blade.''

A few miles away, a similar scene unfolds at the home of Betty, also a Jackson Energy Cooperative member, and the daughter and her fiancé, cousin, and four grandchildren who live with her in a mobile home that has been added to over the years. New windows are already in place and two volunteers are at work on the roof.

''The kids now have a warm bedroom,'' says Betty. A fire in the kitchen earlier had done extensive damage to another part of the house, but she did not have the ability to repair it. ''I just did the best I could,'' she says. ''My sister-in-law fell through the porch and the refrigerator almost landed on her.''

''My son passed with leukemia when he was 32,'' Betty says, her long brown hair now streaked with gray. ''He always told me if he won the lottery he would bulldoze down this house and build me a new home. I wish he was here to see this. They have done miracles.''

Everyday miracles are what CAP has come to be known for as it has grown into the 16th-largest human services charity in the country with 160 employees and as many as 50 long-term volunteers.

CAP's Housing Program, which coordinates WorkFest and YouthFest, a spring-break alternative program for high school students, provides home repair and reconstruction services year-round. Permanent crews, including an experienced, industry-trained crew leader and several long-term volunteers, perform all types of home repairs.

Families requesting help fill out an application, which is reviewed by a caseworker who then schedules a home visit to assess the applicant's needs. The families go through a budgeting process and in monthly installments pay back one-half of the material costs (up to a maximum of 5 percent of their income). They also donate sweat equity. All the labor is donated for the homes that CAP builds or repairs.

Across Appalachia, similar projects are under way. A CAP-operated food pantry called Grateful Bread warded off hunger for 800 families last year, and Grateful Threadz, a store accepting donations of gently used clothing, helped thousands of individuals and families. Prescription assistance helped 709, family advocacy served 4,980, elderly services 267, and domestic violence shelters 2,640. It is the same with numerous other programs. In all, the organization reached more than 50,000 people last year. Each represents a need met, a better life.

''We exist to serve God,'' says CAP President Guy Adams. ''That is a high calling. How we do that is helping people in need in Appalachia.''

TRIBUTE TO JAMES A. STEM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, I want to talk about an incredible champion of America's railroads. James A. Stem, Jr., has been a tireless advocate for the men and women who keep our Nation's railroads operating for nearly 50 years. He has done just about every job in the industry and will soon be retiring as the national legislative director of the Transportation Division of the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, Transportation Workers, formerly the United Transportation Union, UTU.

James began his career in 1966 as a trainman for the Seaboard Air Line Railroad in his native Raleigh, NC. He joined the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and worked in numerous capacities including as a trainman, switchman, hostler helper, hostler, fireman, and locomotive engineer. He even holds seniority as a locomotive engineer on a CSX line.

In the 1970s, James became much more involved in rail labor in North Carolina for the United Transportation Union. He was a delegate to five UTU International conventions and was eventually elected as the North Carolina State legislative director in 1984. He would go on to become the UTU alternate national legislative director in 1998, serving alongside a legend, James Brunkenhoefer—also known as ''Brokenrail.'' James was elevated to national legislative director in 2009. In 2011, United Transportation Union and Sheet Metal Workers International Association merged to become the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers. James continued his work with an even larger membership, now more than 216,000 strong.

James has frequently testified before Congress, always advocating for the betterment of working men and women in the railroad industry. He was part of the original 1997 Positive Train Control Working Group sponsored by the Federal Railroad Administration.

James has been a great defender of Amtrak and commuter rail and a strong proponent of high speed rail. When cuts threatened the effectiveness of passenger rail, James fought to block them on Capitol Hill. When railroad workers needed improved health and safety benefits, James was there. He has tirelessly advocated for the working men and women on the railroads, making sure they have good paying jobs, proper health care, and a solid retirement.

James' influence can be felt at almost every level of government, within the industry, and inside rail labor. Two of his former UTU colleagues currently serve as Federal Railroad Administrator and Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board. Both will tell you that without James's leadership and friendship, they would not be where they are today.

It is with great pride that I congratulate James A. Stem, Jr. for his long career in the railroad industry and for the incalculable contributions he made there. I wish James and his wife Bonnie well in their retirement and hope they are able to enjoy extended family time with their children and grandchildren.

H.R. 3043 AND S. 1507

Mr. MORAN. I wish to engage in a colloquy with the chairman of the Finance Committee, Senator WYDEN, and with Senator HEITKAMP, to clarify several questions that have arisen since H.R. 3043 and S. 1507 were introduced.

I say to the chairman, the term general welfare is found in the Preamble to the Constitution, and the power and duty of governments to promote the general welfare is at the core of our service to the people. Indian Tribes, through treaties, agreements, and statutes, reserved their original, inherent right to self-government, and Tribal governments are in the best position to determine the general welfare interests of the Indian people. H.R. 3043 and S. 1507 are intended to respect the right of Indian Tribes to provide for the general welfare of Tribal members.

I ask the chairman, is it your understanding that in interpreting the meaning of the requirement under the bill that Indian Tribal government programs be ''for the promotion of the general welfare,'' it is intended that the IRS will apply this requirement in a manner no less favorable than the safe harbor approach provided for in Revenue Procedure 2014–35, and in no event will the IRS require an individualized determination of financial need where a Tribal program meets all other requirements of new section 139E as added by the bill?

Mr. WYDEN. The Senator is correct. I want to express my full support for the administrative guidance issued by the IRS in Rev. Proc. 2014–35. I would also point out to the Senator that the bill requires under its ''Statutory Construction'' provision of section 2(c), that any ambiguities in new Code section 139E shall be resolved by the IRS in favor of Indian Tribal governments and deference shall be given to Indian Tribal governments for programs administered and authorized by the Tribe to benefit the general welfare of the Tribal community.

Ms. HEITKAMP. As the chairman knows, there have been concerns expressed in Indian Country that the IRS may take the occasion of passage of H.R. 3043 or S. 1507 to retrench, narrow or possibly withdraw the administrative guidance provided in Rev. Proc. 2014–35 after enactment of the bill. As the sponsor of this legislation, I would like to say that would be contrary to the intent of Congress.

Mr. WYDEN. I fully share the Senator's concern and want to assure her as well as Tribal interests that the Congressional intent, as well as mine as chairman of the Finance Committee, is to expand rather than restrict the safe harbor provisions in Rev. Proc. 2014–35. The purpose of this legislation is to further empower Tribal self-determination. Tribes, and not the IRS, are in the best position to determine the needs of their members and provide for the general welfare of their Tribal citizens and communities.

TRIBAL GENERAL WELFARE EXCLUSION ACT OF 2014

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee to strongly support the Senate's passage of an important tax bill, H.R. 3043, the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014. This bill will improve the application of the Federal income tax in Indian Country and in doing so will reflect appropriate respect for the sovereignty of tribal governments.

By way of background, the Federal Tax Code treats most payments that individuals receive, and the value of some services they receive, as taxable income. There is an exclusion, though, for payments and services received under programs conducted by State and local governments. It's called the general welfare exclusion, and it covers things like housing assistance, emergency medical care, and education assistance. These are traditionally treated as nontaxable.

Unfortunately, the IRS has had difficulty applying the general welfare exclusion when it comes to benefits provided by tribal governments to tribal members. In order to determine which benefits were excluded from taxation, the IRS began conducting aggressive audits, leaving the tax treatment of many tribe-provided benefits in doubt. As Delores Pigsley, chairman of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians Tribal Council, put it in a letter to me, ''for several years, the IRS has sought to tax tribal government programs and services.'' This, in turn, has undermined tribal sovereignty and hindered economic and social development.

I am pleased to report that there has been some significant progress. In July, the IRS issued regulations clarifying the application of the exclusion, and the regulations were a good step in the right direction, clearing up some questions and reflecting an improved dialogue between the IRS and tribes. However, a regulation is not a congressional statute; we need to lock these improvements into statutory law, as well as expand on them such as by establishing a Tribal Advisory Committee to help the Treasury Department and the IRS understand about how best to address tax issues affecting Indian Country.

The bill we are considering today would accomplish these goals. It codifies and expands IRS regulations, draws clear lines, and gives greater respect to tribal institutions and programs.

I would like to acknowledge the principal sponsors of the Senate version of the bill, Senators MORAN and HEITKAMP, for their leadership. I also would like to thank Senators STABENOW, THUNE, and other members of the Finance Committee, who have urged the committee to move forward on this issue.

Tribal governments have a long history of providing critical benefits to tribal members, and these programs are fundamental to the sovereignty and cultural integrity of tribes. Tribes, and not the IRS, are in the best position to determine the needs of their members and provide for the general welfare of their tribal citizens and communities. I know this bill has the support of tribes in my home State of Oregon and will benefit tribes and tribal members across the Nation. I urge all Senators to support the bill.

AMENDING THE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, as chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, the pension community approached me with their concerns that the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation was interpreting section 4062(e) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 too broadly. That provision was intended to protect pension plan participants in the event of a cessation of operations at a facility. However, the pension community was able to provide substantial evidence that the corporation's enforcement efforts were out of line with congressional intent to such an extent that section 4062(e) had become a major impediment to businesses' efforts to restructure. After a thorough review of the situation and consultation with employers, employees, retirees, and the Obama administration, it became abundantly clear that enforcement efforts under section 4062(e) were failing to protect either pensions or the corporation.

Consequently, I worked with the ranking member, Senator ALEXANDER, on a new approach that we introduced as S. 2511. That legislation, which passed out of committee on a unanimous vote, will restore the original intent of section 4062(e) by clarifying the types of cessations of operations that trigger downsizing liability. The legislation will give plan sponsors certainty with respect to their obligations, and it will also ensures that participants are protected when workforce reductions signal that the ongoing viability of a plan sponsor is in question.

Overall, S. 2511 represents a significant compromise between the needs of employers, employees, and retirees, and I think it will give everyone a lot more clarity with regard to their obligations under section 4062(e). However, there are a few points about the bill that I would like to clarify.

First, there may be questions as to how the terms ''facility'' and ''location'' should be interpreted. They are not explicitly defined in S. 2511 because we intend for them to be interpreted according to their natural usage. For example, if an employer maintains several buildings that are physically adjacent to each other, that would be a single facility at a single location. However, if the employer maintains a building in one part of a city and another building in another part of the city, those buildings would be separate facilities at separate locations.

Second, S. 2511 is intended to allow employers to make conditional elections. The legislation allows employers that have a substantial cessation under section 4062(e) to elect a new, alternative means of satisfying their liability. The election must be made not later than 30 days after the earlier of the date that the employer notifies the corporation of a substantial cessation of operations or the date that the corporation makes a final administrative determination both that a substantial cessation of operations has occurred and of the amount of the alternative liability. Of course, there may be instances in which it is uncertain as to whether such a cessation has occurred or the amount of the alternative liability, if any, even after a final administrative determination has been made by the corporation. In those cases, the employer would certainly not be required to make a binding election to pay amounts that may later be determined not to be due. Thus, in all cases, an election by the employer would become inapplicable to the extent that a court subsequently rules or the corporation later agrees that a cessation has not occurred or that the alternative liability amount is lower than the amount determined by the corporation.

To the extent that an election becomes inapplicable, any contributions previously made by the employer to satisfy such inapplicable liability amount should be treated as additional funding contributions that are not subject to the provisions of the bill. Consequently, such additional funding contributions could be treated as increasing the employer's prefunding balance. In addition, we fully intend for the corporation and the courts to have the power to stay, in whole or in part, an employer's obligation to make alternative liability payments until the court has determined whether there has been a substantial cessation and/or the alternative liability amount.

In other cases, a substantial cessation may have occurred, but there is no liability of any kind due to the corporation's enforcement policy. We expect that some employers may want to make an election of the alternative liability amount in case the employer's financial condition changes and the corporation asserts a liability under section 4062(e). In such cases, the annual amount due under the alternative liability method would be zero until the corporation makes a final administrative determination that the corporation's enforcement policy no longer applies to such employer. To ensure that a substantial cessation in one year cannot cause liabilities 10 or 20 years later, for example, the 7-year payment period for the alternative liability amount would include years in which the amount due is zero.

In order to ensure that any reporting requirement that may later be determined to apply is satisfied, an employer may notify the corporation of

an event that the employer does not believe constitutes a substantial cessation of operations. If the employer informs the corporation in writing, the notification will not trigger the 30-day period for making an election, and the 30-day period will begin when the employer agrees that the event constitutes a substantial cessation of operations or when the corporation makes a final administrative determination to that effect and similarly determines the amount of the alternative liability.

Third, S. 2511 is intended to prevent employers from being subject to retroactive liability and to other unreasonable payment deadlines. The legislation generally requires the first contribution under the alternative liability method to be paid not later than the earlier of (1) the due date for the minimum required contribution for the year in which the substantial cessation occurred and (2) in the case of the first contribution, the date that is 1 year after the later of (a) the date that the employer notifies the corporation of the substantial cessation or (b) the date that the corporation makes a final administrative determination that a substantial cessation has occurred and of the amount of the alternative liability, with subsequent contributions due on the same date in the following years. The intent is to ensure that in all cases the employer has at least 1 year's advance notice of the need to make the first contribution.

Thus, clause (2) controls where otherwise an employer could have less than a year's advance notice of the liability. That is especially important where there is uncertainty as to whether a substantial cessation has occurred or regarding the alternative liability amount because the corporation's final determination might not even be made until after the due date for contributions for the year of the substantial cessation. Similarly, the substantial cessation could occur in a year when the employer is not subject to section 4062(e) liability pursuant to the corporation's enforcement policy, but in a later year, the employer becomes subject to section 4062(e) liability with respect to that earlier cessation. To prevent retroactive liability and other problems, clause (2) is controlling regarding the timing of the first contribution in all cases where the employer would otherwise have less than a year's advance notice of the liability. Where clause (2) is controlling, the seven annual payments would start with the first one required by clause (2).

In some cases, an employer may have notified the corporation of a substantial cessation and elected the alternative liability method in a specific amount. We intend for the same timing rules to apply in determining the due date of the first payment of such amount. However, the corporation may later challenge the amount of the alternative liability and seek a higher amount. In such cases, the higher amount would become due pursuant to the timing rules so that there may be separate 7-year periods, one for the originally elected amount and one for the higher amount determined by the corporation.

Fourth, if an employer fails to pay the amount due for any year by the due date, the employer will be liable for the balance of all amounts due for subsequent years under the alternative liability method, though the corporation may waive or settle such accelerated liability in its discretion. Of course, any such acceleration should be stayed during the pendency of any administrative or judicial proceeding to determine whether there has been a substantial cessation and/or the amount of the alternative liability amount. In addition, if the corporation or a court finds that the employer had a reasonable basis to contest any material portion of the corporation's determination, then the acceleration provision shall not apply, but the employer would owe past due payments plus interest.

S. 2511 is a commonsense solution to the concerns of the pension community, and I appreciate the work of Senator ALEXANDER, the members of the HELP Committee and the Obama administration in getting this important legislation across the finish line.

BURNS AND BARAN NOMINATIONS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, yesterday I cast votes against the nominations of Stephen Burns and Jeffrey Baran to be Commissioners on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I hope I am wrong in my conclusion. The NRC is an incredibly important body at this time in the history of civilian nuclear generation. While low natural gas prices puts economic strain on our fleet of nuclear generators, the NRC has to carefully evaluate the costs and benefits that its regulations provide. In the past the NRC has had talented scientists and nuclear experts compose the Commission. But for these two vacancies the President has nominated lawyers with legal and policy experience. Neither Stephen Burns nor Jeffrey Baran has the technical experience, I believe, that will enable them to effectively serve on the NRC.

Moreover, Stephen Burns—during his service with the NRC as General Counsel—authored several important legal memoranda that enabled then-NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko to improperly undermine the licensing of Yucca Mountain resulting in severe criticism by a Federal court. He also provided a legal opinion that improperly advised Chairman Jaczko that he, alone, could use emergency powers to conduct the business of the Commission in the aftermath of the Fukushima disaster. This was not a close question, in my opinion. Mr. Burns should not have issued such an opinion. While Mr. Burns is familiar with the Commission's procedures, he has no technical nuclear power experience and I am not convinced that he will resist interpreting the law with a political bent. For Mr. Baran—a House Committee staffer who has worked for many years for an opponent of Yucca Mountain—there is not evidence that he can impartially consider highly political Commission decisions.

This critically important Commission must be led by persons who are able to be competent and independent persons of strength. Reluctantly, I have concluded that I must oppose the nominations.

COMMENDING DON EDWARDS

Mrs. BOXER. Today I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th birthday and extraordinary contributions of former Congressman Don Edwards.

Don was born on January 6, 1915, in San Jose, CA, where he attended public schools and graduated from the San Jose High Academy. He then attended Stanford University, where he was a star on the golf team, winning a State medal for match play along with several amateur titles. After graduating in 1936, Don earned his LL.B. at Stanford Law School.

In 1940, Don was hired as a special agent by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. When World War II broke out, he was activated from the Navy Reserve and served for 4 years as a naval intelligence officer and gunnery officer in the South Pacific, attaining the rank of lieutenant.

In the 1950s, Don founded the Valley Title Company and built it into one of the Nation's leading title insurance companies. In 1962, he was elected to Congress.

During his 32 years in the House of Representatives, Don Edwards became known as ''the Congressman from the Constitution,'' the leading congressional defender of civil liberties and chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights. I was lucky enough to serve with Don for 10 years and see firsthand his steadfast dedication to his home State of California and the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans.

In the 1960s, he helped guide landmark civil rights and voting rights legislation through Congress. In the 1970s, he led the efforts to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. A master consensus-builder, he helped forge large bipartisan majorities to pass the Voting Rights Act extension of 1982, Fair Housing Amendments of 1988, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Civil Rights Act of 1991.

One of Don's proudest achievements was the creation of the Nation's first urban national wildlife refuge on the southern end of San Francisco Bay. Established in 1974, it was renamed the ''Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge'' in 1995.

In 1981, Don married his longtime partner, Edith ''Edie'' Wilkie, director of Congress's Arms Control and Foreign Policy Caucus, and even after they retired, she remained active in arms control and international peace for the rest of her life.

Today Don lives in beautiful Carmel among a tight circle of friends and family, including his sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. They will join him in January to celebrate his 100th birthday. As he reaches this milestone, I send him my best wishes, deep affection, and abiding gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO LETITIA A. LONG

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and pay tribute to Letitia—Tish—A. Long, who will retire on October 3, 2014, as Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, or NGA.

It gives me great pleasure to speak publicly about Director Long, who has not only had an exemplary and distinguished career spanning 36 years in the Intelligence Community and the Department of Defense, but who is someone I have gotten to know on a personal level.

As the Director of the NGA, Ms. Long was the first woman to head a major U.S. intelligence agency, and she will therefore always have a place in history as one of the Nation's most important figures in military and national intelligence. She is also a leading figure among women engineers.

I am grateful that in retirement, Tish will continue to advocate and find ways to encourage young women to go into the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

After studying electrical engineering as an undergraduate at Virginia Tech, and then earning a master's degree in mechanical engineering at Catholic University, Tish began her government service as a civilian electrical engineer at the Office of Naval Intelligence, where she was often the only woman in a room full of male engineers.

In 1994, she was promoted to the ranks of the Senior Executive Service, where she eventually served in a dual role at the Naval Intelligence Staff as director for Requirements, Plans, Policy and Programs; and director of Resource Management.

Looking back at her career, it should come as no surprise that Ms. Long reached great heights within the Intelligence Community. In 1995, she participated in the planning for the creation of the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, the predecessor agency of NGA, which she would later lead as Director. From 1998 to 2000, Tish served on the staff of the Director of Central Intelligence as the executive director for Intelligence Community Affairs on the community management staff, the predecessor organization to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Director Long's previous positions included service as Director of the Military Intelligence Staff at DIA and Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence. Tish was instrumental in the creation of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, where she served as the first Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence for Policy, Requirements and Resources. In 2006, she returned to the DIA as its Deputy Director.

Then, in August of 2010, Ms. Long became the fifth Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. As its director, Tish expertly managed the multibillion-dollar NGA budget and a workforce of nearly 10,000 government employees during a challenging period that included two wars, budget sequestration, and a government shutdown.

Under Director Long's skillful leadership, NGA provided extensive support to our Nation's highest priority security concerns, from counterterrorism missions across the globe—including critical support to the raid that killed Usama bin Laden—to monitoring and providing advanced warning on crises in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

I have appreciated Director Long's candor with the Senate Intelligence Committee and her willingness to address the committee's concerns. Ms. Long's leadership on intelligence integration, advanced analytic tradecraft, and technology initiatives significantly improved intelligence production for the Defense Department, the Intelligence Community, and our allied partners. These efforts also provided greater insight into national security issues for policymakers in both the executive branch and Congress.

Let me close by saying that those of us who are fortunate enough to know Tish personally can attest to her dedication to the mission, personal integrity, and unwavering loyalty to our Nation.

As she leaves government service, Tish will have more time to spend with her husband John Skibinski, stepdaughters Jordan, Lindsay, and Katherine, and granddaughter Hanna.

It is with great pride and honor that I personally recognize Director Tish Long as an innovator, leader, and friend.

We wish Tish all the best in the future. I yield the floor.

OBSERVING POW/MIA DAY

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize National POW/MIA Recognition Day. As we acknowledge the important role of American servicemembers and veterans, we must keep at the forefront of our thoughts and prayers the safe return of those who have gone missing in action or are prisoners of war. National POW/MIA Recognition Day, which is observed the third Friday of September, provides a time to honor prisoners of war, POW, and those who became missing in action, MIA.

As the brave men and women who serve our Nation commit themselves to protecting America and our freedoms, our Nation must be resolute in bringing them home should they go missing or be taken prisoner when serving our Nation in a time of war. Standing by our servicemembers includes utilizing every reasonable means of bringing them home.

POW/MIA families and veterans have remained committed to keeping the pursuit of facts at the forefront in the years since the Vietnam war. This effort and the perseverance of the POW/MIA families have been instrumental in accounting for missing military and civilian personnel from not only the Vietnam war but also World War II, the Korean war and the Cold War. Finding resolution for the families must remain a central focus as America has since engaged in subsequent wars to halt terrorism.

On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, we honor those Americans who have thankfully returned home, the families and loved ones who stood by awaiting their return, and we remain committed to finding answers for the families who continue to await the return of their missing and unaccounted-for loved ones. Each day, as we see the reminder of those Americans and their families through the POW/MIA flags that are posted at many places across our Nation, including the Halls of Congress, military sites, war memorials, national cemeteries, and U.S. postal service offices, let us not lose sight of this enduring commitment to accounting for those missing.

I look forward to the day when we can welcome all our servicemembers home. Thank you to the many servicemembers and their families for all they have done and continue to do for our country and to all those who work to ensure their return home.

THE EBOLA CRISIS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my remarks at the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee hearing yesterday be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EBOLA IN WEST AFRICA: A GLOBAL CHALLENGE AND PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT

We must take the dangerous, deadly threat of Ebola as seriously as we take ISIS. Let me say that again: We must take the dangerous, deadly threat of the Ebola epidemic as seriously as we take ISIS. I think I have a reputation as a senator who's not given to overstatement; I don't believe that's an overstatement.

The spread of this disease deserves a more urgent response from our country and other countries around the world than it's now getting. This is one of the most explosive, deadly epidemics in modern time but we know what to do to reduce the spread. It will require a huge and immediate response.

There is no known cure; there's no vaccine. Half of those who get sick die. Each sick person, according to the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention, could infect up to 20 others, including caregivers, friends and family. Samantha Power, the U.N. Ambassador, said to me earlier this week in a briefing she's trying to get other countries to view this with the same urgency that we do.

This is an instance, she said, when we should be running toward the burning flames with our fireproof suits on. Ebola is killing people in West Africa at alarming rates and picking up speed. It's hard to say exactly what the number of cases is. There is an official number, a little less than 5,000 of Ebola cases in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, but the worry is that one-half of those cases were reported in the last three weeks. You don't have to know very much about mathematics to know that if—whatever the number—if it doubles every three weeks that very soon we have an out-of-control epidemic. And we can see easily what would happen if a single infected traveler reaches another country and begins to infect others in that country.

I said earlier, and we'll learn more today, about what we know how to do. We'll hear from a doctor who has contracted Ebola and who has recovered from it and who is here to talk about it. It's not like the flu. It can only be spread by bodily fluids, often contracted by caring for someone who's sick or through burial practices.

But with global travel, we're only one airplane ride away from a person exposed to Ebola getting on a plane to the United States and then becoming sick once they arrive. And then the mathematics of that infection could begin to develop in this country.

There's human tragedy in Africa, but it affects the rest of the world and it affects the United States. Our state is known as the Volunteer State. And Dr. Brantly is an Ebola patient. He was working for Samaritan's Purse. He's not a Tennessean, but his parents are graduates of Lipscomb University, which is in Nashville. He, like many Americans, go on mission trips around the world to help people who need help.

I will support the administration's request for the $30 million Senator HARKIN talked about, and the $58 million for the biomedical advanced research and development. That's for vaccines and cures and treatments. That should pass this week.

There's a request to address $500 million of reprogramming in the Defense Department. Some have asked, why should our military be involved? Because they have to be involved if we want to deal with the problem. There's no way for the doctors and the nurses and the health care workers to deal with it.

So I'm pleased that on both sides of the aisle, we have leaders who are beginning to recognize the severity of this epidemic. Dr. Frieden and U.N. Ambassador Power are taking the lead. We look forward to learning all we can about the severity of the epidemic and what we must do to control it.

But I'll end where I started. We must take the deadly, dangerous threat of the Ebola epidemic as seriously as we take ISIS.

RESIGNATION AS COMMISSIONER TO THE EISENHOWER MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, effective immediately, I hereby resign my position as Commissioner to the Eisenhower Memorial Commission.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DEAN STONE

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, next Tuesday, September 23, is an important day in my hometown of Maryville, TN. It is the 90th birthday of Dean Stone.

It would be hard to imagine Blount County without Dean Stone. For most of his 90 years, he has been our historian-in-chief, our storyteller-in-chief, and our editor-in-chief. His photographs of the Great Smoky Mountains and his eight books about our county's history line the libraries of most of Blount Countians. In fact, taken altogether they constitute a library of their own.

Dean is a longtime journalist and native of Maryville, TN, where he served as editor of the Maryville-Alcoa Daily Times and still serves as opinion editor today. In each Sunday's edition, he writes his ''Bits of Stone'' about the history and happenings around Blount County. Dean earned his degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma in 1949 after serving in World War II, where he originated the idea of raising the American flag over Yugoslavia. After college, he decided to return to Maryville and began his career with the Maryville-Alcoa Daily Times as a Sunday editor.

Dean became managing editor of the newspaper—known now as the Daily Times—later that year and has been employed with the newspaper for the last 66 years. His journalistic skills and energy have helped to make the Daily Times one of the best smaller daily newspapers in our country. Under his direction, the Daily Times has received more than 30 first-place awards from Tennessee journalism associations. In 2013, Dean was inducted into the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame.

Dean is known for his contributions to tourism in Maryville and Blount County, including founding the Times Townsend Traveler in the early 1950s, a tourism journal that was one of the first publications of its type in the Nation. He has received numerous awards in recognition of his service to tourism in the area, including recognition as the ''one person in Blount County and Townsend who has contributed the most to tourism during the 20th century'' at the Tennessee Governor's Conference on Tourism. He also served as president of the Blount County Chamber of Commerce, on numerous education and school boards, Leadership Blount, the Maryville-Alcoa Jaycees, the Alcoa Kiwanis, and the United Way of Blount County.

Dean is a longtime supporter of our national parks and for many years has served on and chaired the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Commission. He was instrumental in founding Beautiful Blount, which still seeks to preserve the beauty in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains. He also started Stonecraft in 1954, a postcard company he founded to share the beauty of the Smokies.

Gregg Jones, current president of Blount County Publishers, said:

> For the past several decades it has been Dean Stone's joy to reveal in word and picture every dimension of his beloved Blount County. As he has done so over the years, it has become apparent that Dean, himself, is one of Blount County's greatest treasures. I am honored to claim Dean as my colleague and friend, and wish him the very best on this special day and every day to come.

Another colleague of Dean's, Carl Esposito, current publisher of the Daily Times, said, ''Dean Stone is not only the elder statesman of the Daily Times, but a virtual repository of Blount County history and knowledge. It is a pleasure and privilege to work alongside him.''

Many Blount Countians have their own stories about Dean's impact on their lives, and I have mine. Other than lawn mowing and paper routes, Dean gave me my first real job. When I was a student at Maryville High School during the 1950s, Dean began a feature in the Daily Times reporting the news in Blount County high schools. He named me the school page editor for Maryville High. As I remember, the pay was one penny for each inch of copy that I wrote. I remember turning in so many inches of copy that after the first edition, Dean limited the number of words each school editor could write.

Ever since, Dean Stone and his family have been close friends of the Alexander family. There is no one from whom I have learned more about my home county than Dean Stone.

So Dean, from one of your many students, admirers, former employees and fellow Blount Countians, Happy 90th Birthday, and thank you for all you have done to celebrate the beautiful place we call home.•

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the 40th anniversary of Swords to Plowshares, one of the preeminent organizations providing quality, compassionate care and services to veterans in the San Francisco Bay area.

In 1974, six veterans concerned about the challenges facing soldiers returning home from Vietnam established a program to help ease their transition to civilian life by providing education, job training, and employment assistance. Swords to Plowshares quickly earned a reputation as a trusted resource for veterans, and over the years it has grown to meet the needs of each new generation of veterans.

As veterans came home from Vietnam, Swords to Plowshares created extensive health, social services, legal services, and housing programs to support them. Following the gulf war, Swords began offering programs to address mental health and substance

abuse among veterans. As veterans returned from Iraq and Afghanistan, Swords worked with vets and their families to identify gaps in VA services and established the Institute for Veteran Policy to make recommendations to the military and VA to better address the needs of our newest veterans.

Today, with the help of more than 100 dedicated staff, Swords provides employment and job training, legal services, and housing assistance to more than 2,000 veterans in the San Francisco Bay area each year.

I want to extend my special thanks to Michael Blecker, a U.S. Army veteran who joined Swords in 1976 and has served as its executive director since 1980. I am lucky to have known Michael for more than two decades, and there is no one who has been more dedicated to ensuring that veterans are treated with the dignity they deserve.

Our service men and women and their families who have made tremendous sacrifices in service to America deserve not only our deepest gratitude but also our commitment to help them lead healthy and productive lives. As Swords to Plowshares celebrates its 40th anniversary, I offer my profound thanks for all it does to fulfill our sacred obligation to our Nation's veterans.●

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND CECIL WILLIAMS

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 85th birthday and extraordinary contributions of my dear friend, the Reverend Cecil Williams.

For more than half a century, Reverend Williams has served as the founder and minister of Liberation at Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco, CA. As a minister, community leader, author, lecturer, and champion of the poor and marginalized, Reverend Williams is widely recognized and revered as a national leader in the struggle for civil rights, human rights, and social change.

Cecil Williams was born in San Angelo, TX, and from a very young age, this caring and sensitive boy was fondly known as ''the Rev'' by his close-knit family. Cecil grew up in the segregated South, but his strong, loving mother always told her son, ''You are going to be somebody.''

After graduating from Huston-Tillotson University and the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, Cecil Williams became the pastor of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church at a time when its congregation was dwindling. Reverend Williams embarked on his life's work: to make this church the center of a vibrant community that would reach out to all, particularly the poor, oppressed, and marginalized.

Reverend Williams welcomed worshippers of all backgrounds, races, and sexual orientations. In 1964, he helped establish the Council on Religion and Homosexuality an organization dedicated to educating religious communities about gay and lesbian issues and stood up to police who attempted to shut down a dance benefit to raise funds for the new organization. Reverend Williams was also one of the first clergymen to take a stand for same-sex couples by presiding over their weddings four decades before today's struggle to legalize gay marriage.

Under his leadership, Glide Memorial thrived and became a cornerstone of the community. He hosted poets, jazz musicians, and political activists at the church and launched a free meals program that serves 750,000 meals a year, feeding more than 3,500 hungry people daily. Today more than 17,000 people participate in Glide programs, volunteering in its community clinic, childcare, and afterschool programs, housing services, and Daily Free Meals program.

Reverend Williams is married to Janice Mirikitani, Founding President of the Glide Foundation, and together they direct Glide's many innovative social and cultural programs.

In his life and work, Rev. Cecil Williams has embodied Glide Memorial's revolutionary mission: ''to create a radically inclusive, just and loving community mobilized to alleviate suffering and break the cycles of poverty and marginalization.''

I am proud to join his family, friends, and many admirers in celebrating the 85th birthday and extraordinary contributions of Rev. Cecil Williams.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN HOGANSON

● Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I wish to honor John Hoganson who retired at the end of July after 33 years of dedicated service to the State of North Dakota with the North Dakota Geologic Survey.

John traces his love for discovery and earth science back to his childhood in eastern North Dakota. As a child, John could be found with his father's claw hammer breaking open rocks in an attempt to discover the mysteries that lay inside. As a young adult, his passion and curiosity helped him graduate from North Dakota State University and eventually to earn a doctorate in geology with an emphasis in paleontology from the University of North Dakota.

He began his career in public service as a geologist with the Geologic Survey. The position later transitioned when he was tasked with formulating a fossil resource management plan for the State. John would later go on to serve as our State's first paleontologist, a position he held for 25 years.

John was instrumental in securing passage of two landmark pieces of legislation in the North Dakota State legislature that helped to protect our State's fossil resources and created a state fossil collection. Under John's leadership, North Dakota's fossil collection has grown from a small collection of bones to one that now numbers in the hundreds of thousands. One of the top finds includes a 67-million-year-old Edmontosaurus, a duck-billed dinosaur, with intact fossilized skin, who has been affectionately named Dakota. Dakota is one of only a handful of dinosaurs in existence to have preserved skin. Dakota has been regarded by experts as one of the more important discoveries in recent times because he may be the best-preserved Edmontosaurus found to date. He also created a public dig program which has brought in volunteers from across the country and around the world to assist with digs.

In addition to his work for the State, John has also been a valuable teacher and mentor, spending countless hours engaging students of all ages and the general public around the State in hands-on educational experiences. Without John's passion and commitment, many North Dakotans would have never been aware of our State's rich paleontological history. He has been pivotal in the creation of curriculum for the North Dakota Studies project, and the 24 fossil exhibits in museums and visitors centers across the State.

In evidence to his lifelong commitment to discovery, John will be continuing his work with fossils by completing some research projects and writing papers for scientific journals. I want to thank John for his years of dedication and service as an advocate for paleontology and as a teacher to the people of North Dakota. I wish him the best in his new endeavors and a happy and full retirement.●

CONGRATULATING DAVID SOUSA

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate David Sousa on his being elected the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, Nevada Department Commander for 2015. I am proud to honor a Nevadan who has dedicated his life to serving our country and is committed to ensuring that our Nation's heroes receive the care that they deserve.

Commander Sousa has had a long and decorated military career in the United States Army for over 25 years. During his service, he has served missions in Kenya and Somolia and went on to serve in ''Operation Iraqi Freedom'' in Abu Ghraib, Iraq, as a member of the 72nd Military Police Company. He also went on to serve in ''Operation Enduring Freedom'' in Kandahar, Afghanistan, as a member of the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Commander Sousa for his courageous contributions to the United States of America and to freedom-loving nations around the world. His service to his country and his bravery and dedication earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation.

As a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I recognize

the important role the Veterans of Foreign Wars plays for combat veterans and military servicemembers from the active, Guard, and Reserve forces. This distinguished national group of veterans has been a constant influence, furthering the voice of all of our Nation's heroes. On July 22, 2014, at the 115th National Convention, David Sousa was elected Nevada Department Commander. Commander Sousa has served and held many roles within the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization for the past 10 years and has previously been named the VFW Outstanding Veteran for 2006. His work for the VFW is exemplary, and I expect great things from him as he assumes his role as Nevada's Department Commander.

Commander Sousa's focus of his work for this year is suicide prevention and awareness for veterans, as well as working towards a safer community for veterans. I commend Commander Sousa on this important goal and look forward to working with him to achieve this. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals who serve our Nation but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. I am concerned about the needs of Nevada's veterans, especially those suffering one of the most common injuries from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars—post-traumatic stress. I believe Congress has a responsibility to enact policies that will help veterans overcome these difficulties and ensure that the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs have the resources necessary to meet the growing needs of Nevada and our Nation's veteran communities. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation.

I am both humbled and honored by Commander Sousa's service and am proud to call him a fellow Nevadan. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Commander Sousa for all of his accomplishments and wish him well in all of his future endeavors.●

RECOGNIZING WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S AIR NATIONAL GUARD

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate the Washoe County School District's Air National Guard for receiving the Secretary of Defense Freedom Award.

Former Secretary of Defense, William Perry, developed the Secretary of Defense Freedom Award under the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve office in 1996. Each year, up to 15 awards are presented to employers in three categories: large business, small business, and the public sector. The award honors employers who have shown exceptional support to their Guard and Reserve employees and have gone above and beyond what is federally mandated to ensure that their military employees are well taken care of. This esteemed award is the highest in a series of Department of Defense employer awards, and I congratulate Washoe County School District's Air National Guard on being selected as one of only 190 employers to receive this award.

Washoe County School District's Air National Guard's extraordinary level of support they provide to their servicemembers is admirable, and I am both humbled and honored to acknowledge Washoe County School District's Air National Guard here today. During deployment, the school district takes the time to send emails and care packages to our brave men and women. Its support services also extend to the members' families. Washoe County teachers volunteer their own time to help children and spouses who are in need of assistance by babysitting, housecleaning, and running errands. The school district has also been commended for the support it showed after a fellow Guardsman and teacher, Michael Landsberry, was killed defending students during a shooting at Sparks Middle School last year.

Each and every day, our troops are serving the United States to protect the freedoms we enjoy today. They dedicate their lives to serve this great Nation and constantly make grave sacrifices to ensure the safety of our country. Our servicemembers and their families deserve our gratitude and thanks, and as a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am committed to keeping our Nation's promise to care for them. There is no way to adequately thank the men and women that lay down their lives for our freedoms, but Washoe County School District's Air National Guard has shown an unwavering dedication and commitment to ensuring that our servicemembers and their families are getting the support that they deserve.

I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in congratulating Washoe County School District's Air National Guard and know that they serve as an example for the rest of the Silver State.●

RECOGNIZING VETERAN'S VILLAGE

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Veteran's Village in Las Vegas, NV, for its commitment and dedication to providing our veterans with transitional and permanent housing. Veteran's Village is the only 24-hour, 7-day-a-week social service facility for veterans in Las Vegas.

The brave men and women who served the United States and fought to protect our freedom have often come home to a struggling economy. A number of veterans are unable to find a job or afford to buy or rent a home. As the demographics of our Armed Forces have changed throughout the years, so too have the needs of homeless veterans. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, this is an issue I have been personally involved with and have introduced legislation to address. Organizations like the Veteran's Village serve to help those in need in an environment of respect and dignity within the Las Vegas community. This organization is a shining example of the kind of initiatives that will help get our veterans back on their feet.

There is no way to adequately thank the men and women that lay down their lives for our freedoms, but the Founders and volunteers at the Veteran's Village are working to assist our Nation's veterans by giving them shelter while they try to rebuild their lives. The organization was founded by Dr. Arnold Stalk, who envisioned turning the old Econo Lodge into a facility to house our homeless veterans. With the help of public and private collaborative partnerships, Veteran's Village has created a home environment for our Nation's heroes who need a helping hand. This organization's continued dedication to serving veterans through providing skills training, nutrition, employment training and referrals, continuing education and degree programs, medical services, mental health counseling and much more is commendable, and I am proud to honor this organization here today.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I know the struggles that our veterans face after returning home from the battlefield. Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals, but to ensure they receive the quality care they have earned and deserve. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation. I am very pleased that veterans' service organizations like the Veteran's Village are committed to ensuring that the needs of our veterans are being met.

Today, I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing the Veteran's Village, an organization whose mission is both noble and charitable. I am both humbled and honored to acknowledge the Veteran's Village and its work to end homelessness for veterans throughout the United States, and I wish it the best of luck in all of its future endeavors.●

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAURIUM MANOR INN

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I acknowledge the 25th anniversary of the Laurium Manor Inn in Houghton County, MI, which was celebrated on September 14, 2014. I extend my heartiest congratulations to Dave and Julie Sprenger, who purchased a vacant historic mansion 25 years ago with the intention of opening a bed and breakfast. The Sprenger's vision resulted in a small business success building on the rich history of

Michigan's Copper Country to attract today's travelers.

Nestled in the heart of the Keweenaw Peninsula's copper country in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and built for Thomas H. Hoatson, Jr., owner of the Calumet and Arizona Mining Company, this mansion started off as a 13,000-square-foot home for the Hoatson family. It remains the largest mansion in the western portion of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The extravagance of the structure was by far its best known feature. From the embossed elephant leather on the walls, to the grand staircase which spans three floors, to the hand-painted wall mural, stained glass windows, and giant Corinthian columns, the Hoatson mansion was the epitome of opulence. Mr. Hoatson, Jr., a Houghton County native of Scottish decent, made his fortune in the copper mining and banking industries. He spent $50,000 building the mansion at a time when miners were making 25 cents an hour.

Undaunted by the prospect of restoring this enormous and ornate structure, Dave and Julie Sprenger bought the mansion in September of 1989, opened it as a bed and breakfast, listed it as the Laurium Manor Inn on the National Register of Historic Places, and established it as a heritage site within the Keweenaw National Historical Park. This has been no easy task. In addition to the constant renovations and repairs, the remote location of the village of Laurium, the harsh winters of the Upper Peninsula, and the changeable nature of tourism have all challenged the Sprenger's small business. However, throughout all of this, the Sprengers have persevered and continue to provide quality service to the local community and visitors from around the world.

As a senior member of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, I recognize the important role small businesses play in creating jobs and growing the economy, and this bed and breakfast is no exception. I am delighted to congratulate Dave and Julie Sprenger on the 25th anniversary of their flourishing small business, which contributes to the local economy and enriches historical experiences for tourists and residents alike. I wish them many more decades of success.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEEP SUBMERGENCE VEHICLE ALVIN

● Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I want to congratulate the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, WHOI, on the 50th anniversary of the commissioning of the deep-sea, human-occupied submersible Alvin.

Alvin was commissioned on June 5, 1964, at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, in Woods Hole, MA. It is owned by the U.S. Navy and operated by WHOI. In one of its first missions, it responded to a national emergency in 1966, locating and helping to recover a hydrogen bomb that had accidentally dropped into the Mediterranean Sea.

In 1974, Alvin brought scientists for the first time to the mid-ocean ridge during Project FAMOUS, the French-American Mid-Ocean Undersea Study, and revealed a seafloor that scientists had not imagined. Project FAMOUS proved that submersibles could effectively explore the deep seafloor and marked the beginning a new era of exploration.

Alvin discovered and explored previously unknown and unexpected communities of deep-sea organisms that thrive in the absence of sunlight, sustained not by photosynthesis but by chemosynthesis. This discovery was one of the most profound of the 20th century, because it completely transformed our conceptions of where and how life can exist on this planet; reconfigured our search today for life on other planetary bodies; and opened entirely new lines of microbiological and biogeochemical research, including those that have led to commercial and pharmaceutical applications.

Over the following decades, Alvin discovered several previously unknown seafloor environments harboring a diversity of chemosynthetic communities, including high-temperature black-smoker chimneys that spew like undersea geysers in the Pacific, 1979; cold-seep habitats sustained by hydrogen sulfide, methane, and other hydrocarbon-rich fluids seeping from the seafloor Guaymas Basin, Gulf of California, 1982, and in the Gulf of Mexico, 1983; and ''Lost City'' environments, where seawater reacts with mantle rock, peridotite, to produce methane and hydrogen in the Atlantic, 2000.

Alvin has also explored another type of seafloor habitat—seamounts, or ancient undersea volcanoes—with their diverse communities of deep-sea corals, fish, and other organisms, in the Gulf of Alaska, the Pacific, and the Atlantic. Scientists aboard Alvin have discovered many hundreds of previously unknown marine species.

Alvin has contributed to other events of historical significance, exploring and bringing back images of the wreck of the Titanic in 1986 and responding to the Deepwater Horizon disaster, by investigating impacts to deep-sea habitats in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010.

Alvin inspired scientists and engineers to develop new generations of deep-submergence technology; including remotely operated vehicles, ROVs, tethered by fiber-optic cables and free-swimming autonomous underwater vehicles, AUVs. These vehicles are now routinely used for naval activities and national security, oil exploration, maritime, and other industries, environmental and fisheries monitoring, and disaster response, and are now being developed for use under ice in polar regions and to explore other planetary bodies.

Alvin resumed operations in 2014 after a major upgrade, funded by the National Science Foundation, Office of Naval Research, and WHOI, which dramatically enhanced its capabilities. An anticipated second phase of this Alvin upgrade will increase the submersible's diving capacity from 4,500 to 6,500 meters, 14,000 to 21,000 feet, allowing it to reach 98 percent of the seafloor.

Alvin has been a workhorse for U.S. scientists, safely taking nearly 2,600 individual researchers on more than 4,700 dives to the ocean depths and is the only deep-sea human-occupied vehicle in the National Deep Submergence Facility for the U.S. oceanographic community. Alvin has thrilled and inspired generations of schoolchildren around the world with its adventures and discoveries and become an icon for exploration and a symbol of American ingenuity.

The accomplishments and discoveries achieved by this single submersible and the scientists, engineers and ship's crew who built, use, and operate it during its first 50 years demonstrate the importance of continued support for the development of deep-submergence technology and exploration of the largest portion of Earth's surface and its last frontier the ocean.

Alvin is a national scientific treasure and we are proud that it calls Massachusetts and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution home.●

RECOGNIZING SEEKINS PRECISION

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, America depends on the ingenuity of small business owners to propel the country forward in innovation. Seekins Precision demonstrates this originality by continuously improving their products for a unique industry. I rise today to honor Seekins Precision of Lewiston, ID, a small business whose commitment to manufacturing products for those who enjoy exercising their second-amendment rights honors both Idaho and the Nation.

Founded in 2004, Seekins Precision builds innovative products for precision shooters. As the result of an unsuccessful deer hunt, founder Glen Seekins identified a need for hunting equipment able to endure the natural elements of the Idaho mountains products that were durable, yet lightweight. The combination of Mr. Seekins' background in mechanical design and his entrepreneurial spirit sparked the design for Seekins Precision's flagship scope rings. After training himself on a computer numerical control machine to build scope rings, Mr. Seekins and his wife, Katie, set up shop in their garage. In November 2005, their scope rings became so popular in the local shooting community that the business developed into a full-time operation.

Over the past 10 years, Seekins Precision has achieved an outstanding reputation for quality, as well as that of a unique Idaho gem. Since its inception, Seekins Precision has expanded from only making scope rings with just a handful of employees, to developing over ten major upper-end rifle lines and creating more than 25 new jobs in

the local Idaho community. Today, the business has expanded to manufacture a full line of automatic rifle products, including rifles, complete uppers, and other parts and accessories. All of Seekins Precision's products are proudly invented, sourced, and made in the USA in their new 25,000 square foot facility, a $4 million investment back into the community.

At the beginning of this year, Seekins Precision participated in the Shooting Hunting Outdoor Trade, SHOT, Show and Conference in Las Vegas, NV, the largest annual trade show for recreational technology professionals, and the world's premier exposition of combined firearms. Participation in the SHOT Show exposed Seekins Precision to buyers from all 50 States and more than 100 countries, expanding the business' exposure to international markets. Located in the Port of Lewiston since 2010, Idaho's only seaport and the farthest inland port east of the west coast, Seekins Precision relocated to a 25,000 square foot facility in order to accommodate further product demand this past May. The small business received support from Idaho's own Governor, Butch Otter, who attended the grand-opening ribbon-cutting ceremony. Seekins Precision's astonishing success emulates that of the American Dream, reaching beyond the local community and loyal customers.

I congratulate everyone at Seekins Precision on their success, continued growth and exemplary reputation for quality. Seekins Precision represents the best aspects of American craftsmanship and is a credit to both Idaho and the Nation.●

GEAR UP HAWAII

● Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, September 22nd marks the beginning of National Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, GEAR UP, Week and I would like to take a moment to recognize the invaluable work of GEAR UP in Hawaii.

For more than a decade, GEAR UP has provided low-income students all over the country with the support and resources they need to go to college. GEAR UP helps these students, many of which are the first in their family to go to college, to overcome the challenges they face in their communities.

GEAR UP Hawaii serves over 16,000 students each year from low-income and underserved communities throughout the State in grades 7 through 12 and in their first year in college. The program provides a number of services to these students including: supporting academic preparation in high school; providing opportunities for early college options; increasing college access and financial aid information to students and families; and supporting students in their first year in college. GEAR UP Hawaii has gained national recognition for its success in closing the achievement gap and helping low-income students prepare for college.

Through its collaborative partnerships between Hawaii's State Department of Education, K–12 schools, the University of Hawaii, businesses, and community organizations, GEAR UP Hawaii inspires students to see post-secondary education as something they can achieve. It also gives students the tools they need to succeed in college and their careers.

The program's results demonstrate that GEAR UP Hawaii is making significant strides towards increasing the number of low-income students who are prepared for and enroll in college. The first class of Step Up Scholars, a GEAR UP Hawaii program, graduated from high school in June 2013 and earned the college-ready Board of Education Recognition Diploma, BOERD, at nearly twice the rate of the statewide average and three times the rate of non-Step Up Scholars. In addition, across GEAR UP Hawaii schools this past year, there was a 14 percent increase in the number of students participating in dual enrollment programs who graduated high school with six or more college credits. Thanks to these programs, Hawaii's students graduate from high school better prepared for college and for their futures.

A college education is a path to opportunity for our students. GEAR UP Hawaii plays a vital role in fulfilling our responsibility to ensure that every student has access to that path.●

TRIBUTE TO WENDY LEWIS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize LT Wendy Lewis of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps on her upcoming promotion to lieutenant commander.

Lieutenant Lewis is currently serving as a Congressional Fellow on the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. A ship driver by training, Lieutenant Lewis, has ably lent herself to the committee's work. I would like to thank her for the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and other members of the committee.

This well-deserved promotion recognizes her leadership and dedicaton to serving others.●

ADOPTING CHILDREN FROM NEPAL

● Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I comment today on an issue of tremendous concern to a number of Pennsylvania families who in recent years adopted children from Nepal.

In August of 2010, the State Department suspended the authorization for American families to adopt children from that nation with the exception of those families, some from Pennsylvania, who were already in the process of adopting Nepali orphans. The State Department and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services told these ''pipeline'' families that their cases would be processed to completion, but that they should anticipate significant delays and possibly negative outcomes, since their cases were suspected of being heavily tainted by fraud, corruption, and illegal or unethical practices. In response to U.S. government requests for additional evidence substantiating the legality and morality of these adoptions, these families had to undertake extensive investigations on their own to provide such evidence.

Since these families were already completely bonded with their adoptive children, each of them eagerly undertook its investigation, at great financial and emotional expense. Meanwhile, most of the children were forced to languish for an additional 6 months in orphanages. While due diligence is appropriate for all adoptions, I am deeply troubled that in this case not a single instance of fraud or corruption was ever found. In fact, the State Department and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ultimately allowed all these American pipeline families bring their children home to the United States. Despite this ultimately successful outcome, the State Department continues to suspend adoption of desperate Nepali children by American families. I ask that the Department reevaluate its policy with the recent experience of the pipeline families as a major consideration.

With an eye towards the future of the children who were adopted by the pipeline families, I am concerned that the public record on these adoptions from Nepal is still replete with references to fraud and trafficking. We need to set the record straight and to make it clear that each of the Nepali pipeline adoption cases in progress at the time of the suspension was ultimately approved and was devoid of any findings of malfeasance. Every child deserves a family and no child deserves to be needlessly haunted by clouds of doubt about his or her origin. These American families deserve to have a positive public record created showing that their adoptions were completely legal and ethical. I wish to personally begin that record today.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO COMMIT, THREATEN TO COMMIT, OR SUPPORT TERRORISM THAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13224 ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2001—PM 53

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2014.

The crisis constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, in New York and Pennsylvania and against the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 23, 2001, has not been resolved. These actions continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13224 with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 17, 2014.*

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 5134. An act to extend the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity and the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for one year.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

At 3:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1603. An act to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians, and for other purposes.

S. 2154. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program.

S. 2258. An act to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2014, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3043. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes.

H.R. 3593. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the construction of major medical facilities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4137. An act to prohibit assistance provided under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families from being accessed through the use of an electronic benefit transfer card at any store that offers marijuana for sale.

H.R. 4276. An act to extend and modify a pilot program on assisted living services for veterans with traumatic brain injury.

H.R. 4994. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for standardized post-acute care assessment data for quality, payment, and discharge planning, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5169. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to enhance accountability within the Senior Executive Service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5170. An act to improve Federal employee compliance with the Federal and Presidential recordkeeping requirements, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5404. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5405. An act to make technical corrections to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, to enhance the ability of small and emerging growth companies to access capital through public and private markets, to reduce regulatory burdens, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5418. An act to prohibit officers and employees of the Internal Revenue Service from using personal email accounts to conduct official business.

H.R. 5419. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations.

H.R. 5420. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the release of information regarding the status of certain investigations.

H.R. 5461. An act to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction, and for other purposes.

At 6:14 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 124. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3593. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the construction of major medical facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 4137. An act to prohibit assistance provided under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families from being accessed through the use of an electronic benefit transfer card at any store that offers marijuana for sale; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 4276. An act to extend and modify a pilot program on assisted living services for veterans with traumatic brain injury; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 5169. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to enhance accountability within the Senior Executive Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5170. An act to improve Federal employee compliance with the Federal and Presidential recordkeeping requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5405. An act to make technical corrections to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, to enhance the ability of small and emerging growth companies to access capital through public and private markets, to reduce regulatory burdens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5418. An act to prohibit officers and employees of the Internal Revenue Service from using personal email accounts to conduct official business; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5419. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5420. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the release of information regarding the status of certain investigations; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5461. An act to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–7007. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 52nd Annual

Report of the activities of the Federal Maritime Commission for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7008. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to expanding public-private collaboration on infrastructure development and financing; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7009. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Spiny Dogfish Fishery; Final 2014–2015 Spiny Dogfish Specifications'' (RIN0648–BE17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7010. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's 2014 Report to Congress on the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7011. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''National Airspace System Capital Investment Plan Fiscal Years 2015–2019''; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7012. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Communications, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Procedures for Disclosure of Records Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)'' (RIN2700–AE04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7013. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska: Pacific Halibut and Sablefish Individual Fishing Quota Program'' (RIN0648–BC62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7014. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifications'' (RIN0648–XD252) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7015. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Scup Fishery; Adjustment to the 2014 Winter II Quota'' (RIN0648–XD392) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7016. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Spiny Dogfish Fishery; Amendment 3'' (RIN0648–BC77) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7017. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Regulations'' (RIN0648–BC90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7018. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Regulations'' (RIN0648–BC90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7019. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; the Highly Migratory Species Fishery; Closure'' (RIN0648–XD238) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7020. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Monkfish; Framework Adjustment 8'' (RIN0648–BD56) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7021. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trimester Closure for the Common Pool Fishery'' (RIN0648–XD441) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7022. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; 2014 Commercial and Recreational Accountability Measures and Closures for Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack'' (RIN0648–XD422) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7023. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fisheries Management Plan; Northern Red Hake Quota Harvested'' (RIN0648–XD336) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7024. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trip Limit Adjustment and Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area Closure for the Common Pool Fishery'' (RIN0648–XD357) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7025. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area Closure for the Common Pool Fishery and Possession Limit Adjustment'' (RIN0648–XD418) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7026. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reapportionment of the 2014 Gulf of Alaska Pacific Halibut Prohibited Species Catch Limits for the Trawl Deep-Water and Shallow-Water Fishery Categories'' (RIN0648–XD361) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7027. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XD375) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7028. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XD379) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7029. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS); Commercial Blacknose Sharks and Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks (SCS) in the Atlantic Region'' (RIN0648–XD369) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7030. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XD447) received in the

Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7031. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XD449) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7032. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries off West Coast States; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments'' (RIN0648–BE39) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7033. A communication from the Under Secretary for Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a Foreign Policy Report entitled ''Report to the Congress: Sanctions on Exports and Reexports of Commodities That are Used to Support Oil and Gas Operations in Russia''; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7034. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Positive Train Control Systems (RRR)'' (RIN2130–AC32) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7035. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Make Inoperative Exemptions; Vehicle Modifications To Accommodate People With Disabilities; Ejection Mitigation; Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment'' (RIN2127–AL17) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7036. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Registered Importers of Vehicles Not Originally Manufactured To Conform to the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards'' (RIN2127–AL43) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7037. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Early Warning Reporting, Foreign Defect Reporting, and Motor Vehicle and Equipment Recall Regulations'' (RIN2127–AK72) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7038. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Administrative Updates to Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument Regulations'' (RIN0648–BE02) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7039. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Regulations and Management Plan'' (RIN0648–BD60) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7040. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazmat, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Hazardous Materials: Transportation of Lithium Batteries'' (RIN2137–AE44) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7041. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazmat, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Hazardous Materials: Failure to Pay Civil Penalties'' (RIN2137–AE97) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2141. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 2583. A bill to promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling for devices licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2799. A bill to extend the authority of satellite carriers to retransmit certain television broadcast station signals, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. STABENOW for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

*Lisa Afua Serwah Mensah, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Christopher A. Hart, of Colorado, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term of two years.

*Manson K. Brown, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

By Mr. HARKIN for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Sharon Block, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2019.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. THUNE (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COATS, Mr. JOHANNS, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 2833. A bill to improve the establishment of any lower ground-level ozone standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2834. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to protect employment and training services for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2835. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable tax credit for certain storm shelters; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 2836. A bill to provide for an integrated plan for the space launch activities of the Federal Government; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CARPER:

S. 2837. A bill to count revenues from military and veteran education programs toward the limit on Federal revenues that certain proprietary institutions of higher education are allowed to receive for purposes of section 487 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2838. A bill to provide for duty-free treatment of certain recreational performance outerwear, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2839. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BEGICH, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2840. A bill to authorize funding for, and increase accessibility to, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, to facilitate data sharing between such system and the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to provide incentive grants to help facilitate reporting to such systems, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2841. A bill to provide for a study by the Institute of Medicine on health disparities, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop guidelines on reducing health disparities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2842. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a Caregiver Corps program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 2843. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide certain members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are victims of sex-related offenses with access to a special victims' counsel; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2844. A bill to reauthorize the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2845. A bill to establish the Southern Prairie Potholes National Wildlife Refuge; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. AYOTTE:

S. 2846. A bill to express the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of State should use his existing authority to revoke the passports of United States citizens who have provided material support to ISIS and to require the Secretary to submit a quarterly report to Congress on the use of such authority; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 2847. A bill to provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2848. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to apportionments under the Airport Improvement Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2849. A bill to strengthen student achievement and graduation rates and prepare youth for postsecondary education at institutions of higher education, careers, and citizenship through innovative partnerships that meet the comprehensive needs of youth; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2850. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to create a program to provide funding for organizations that support startup businesses in formation and early growth stages by providing entrepreneurs with resources and services to produce viable businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. KAINE:

S.J. Res. 44. A joint resolution to authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 551. A resolution recognizing September 2014 as ''National Campus Safety Awareness Month'' and supporting the goals and ideals of National Campus Safety Awareness Month; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota):

S. Res. 552. A resolution supporting Lights on Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 23, 2014; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Res. 553. A resolution recognizing the 250th anniversary of the Hartford Courant newspaper; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. LEE):

S. Res. 554. A resolution recognizing the month of October 2014 as ''National Principals Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. THUNE):

S. Res. 555. A resolution designating the week of September 15 through September 19, 2014, as ''National Health Information Technology Week'' to recognize the value of health information technology in transforming and improving the health care system for all individuals in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 556. A resolution designating the week beginning on October 12, 2014, as National Wildlife Refuge Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. Res. 557. A resolution designating the week beginning October 19, 2014, as ''National Character Counts Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. REED, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. Res. 558. A resolution designating the week of September 22 through 28, 2014, as ''National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. Res. 559. A resolution designating the week beginning on October 19, 2014, as ''National Chemistry Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 560. A resolution designating September 2014 as ''School Bus Safety Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Con. Res. 43. A concurrent resolution expressing support for designation of a ''National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day''; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 223

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 223, a bill to amend section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the visa waiver program, and for other purposes.

S. 325

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 325, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, and for other purposes.

S. 539

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes and diabetes.

S. 577

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 577, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for coverage under the beneficiary travel program of the Department of Veterans Affairs of certain disabled veterans for travel in connection with certain special disabilities rehabilitation, and for other purposes.

S. 946

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 946, a bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions, and for other purposes.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1088

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1088, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender

identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 1277

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1277, a bill to establish a commission for the purpose of coordinating efforts to reduce prescription drug abuse, and for other purposes.

S. 1463

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1463, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species.

S. 1507

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1507, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes.

S. 1531

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1531, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the types of wines taxed as hard cider.

S. 2082

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2082, a bill to provide for the development of criteria under the Medicare program for medically necessary short inpatient hospital stays, and for other purposes.

S. 2092

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2092, a bill to provide certain protections from civil liability with respect to the emergency administration of opioid overdose drugs.

S. 2141

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2141, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2348

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2348, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 2366

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2366, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefits transfer for children program.

S. 2508

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2508, a bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa to improve access to and the affordability, reliability, and sustainability of power, and for other purposes.

S. 2538

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2538, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the program for viral hepatitis surveillance, education, and testing in order to prevent deaths from chronic liver disease and liver cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 2587

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2587, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to protect and conserve species and the lawful possession of certain ivory in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2621

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2621, a bill to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to fund the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2621, supra.

S. 2622

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2622, a bill to require breast density reporting to physicians and patients by facilities that perform mammograms, and for other purposes.

S. 2646

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2646, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2653

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2653, a bill to amend the definition of ''homeless person'' under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to include certain homeless children and youth, and for other purposes.

S. 2655

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2655, a bill to reauthorize the Young Women's Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009.

S. 2687

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2687, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that women members of the Armed Forces and their families have access to the contraception they need in order to promote the health and readiness of all members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2689

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2689, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2689, supra.

S. 2693

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2693, a bill to reauthorize the women's business center program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2706

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2706, a bill to ensure that organizations with religious or moral convictions are allowed to continue to provide services for children.

S. 2746

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2746, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

S. 2758

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2758, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Air Force to modernize C–130 aircraft using alternative communication, navigation, surveillance, and air traffic management program kits and to ensure that such aircraft meet applicable regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration.

S. 2782

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2782, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to improve the Federal charter for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2793

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2793, a bill to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to Henry Johnson.

S. 2809

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2809, a bill to require the Environmental Protection Agency to obtain a court order to garnish wages to pay a nontax debt.

S. 2814

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2814, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to reform the National Labor Relations Board, the Office of the General Counsel, and the process for appellate review, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 353

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 353, a resolution designating September 2014 as ''National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month''.

S. RES. 529

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 529, a resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and commending its members for their courage and sacrifice in service to the United States.

S. RES. 530

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 530, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the current situation in Iraq and the urgent need to protect religious minorities from persecution from the Sunni Islamist insurgent and terrorist group the Islamic State, formerly known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), as it expands its control over areas in northwestern Iraq.

S. RES. 541

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 541, a resolution recognizing the severe threat that the Ebola outbreak in West Africa poses to populations, governments, and economies across Africa and, if not properly contained, to regions across the globe, and expressing support for those affected by this epidemic.

S. RES. 543

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 543, a resolution designating November 1, 2014, as National Bison Day.

S. RES. 545

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 545, a resolution recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and the immense contributions of Latinos to the United States.

S. RES. 546

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 546, a resolution congratulating Indonesia's President-elect Joko Widodo on his electoral victory and commending the people of Indonesia on their commitment to democracy and free and fair elections.

S. RES. 548

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 548, a resolution designating November 29, 2014, as ''Small Business Saturday'' and supporting efforts to increase awareness of the value of locally owned small businesses.

AMENDMENT NO. 3420

At the request of Mr. WALSH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3420 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3744

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3744 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2850. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to create a program to provide funding for organizations that support startup businesses in formation and early growth stages by providing entrepreneurs with resources and services to produce viable businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Startup Opportunity Accelerator Act or SOAR Act, which provides funding for accelerator programs and organizations that support small business startups.

The importance of small businesses to the economy and job creation is well documented. In fact, data has shown the innovative, smallest companies represent a significant majority of all new businesses, reaffirming the importance of young, small firms to driving small business and economic growth.

To be sure, we see the impact of these high growth startups daily in the technology we rely on for communication and access to information. Many of the startups developing these innovative technologies have thrived in regions, such as Silicon Valley and Silicon Alley, where there are high concentrations of other entrepreneurs and startups. Specifically, these regions have benefited from the presence of growth accelerators and other organizations that connect startups with the resources necessary for growth. These resources can provide critical opportunities for entrepreneurs to access the

venture capital, mentorship, and industry networks vital to success.

That is why I am introducing the SOAR Act. The SOAR Act would authorize the Small Business Administration's SBA, Growth Accelerator Fund, which offers funding to growth accelerators and other organizations supporting startups through a competitive prize program. The SOAR Act would broaden the reach of these organizations to new communities by specifically encouraging applicants that fill both geographic and demographic gaps in the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

After launching in the spring of 2014, the SBA saw tremendous interest in the Fund and received more than 800 applications from organizations across the country. The SBA was able to grant awards to 50 organizations, including a New Jersey-based innovation center that plans to develop a new growth accelerator focused on the food industry.

The SOAR Act will authorize the Growth Accelerator Fund for 5 years and provide a needed funding boost to help meet high demand from small businesses and entrepreneurs in the program.

I am proud to introduce this legislation that provides increased resources to help startups succeed. This relatively small, targeted investment would deliver big returns for communities across the country, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2839. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleague from Rhode Island to talk a little bit about a very important piece of legislation we are introducing. It is called the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2014. I think it is fair to say that Senator WHITEHOUSE from Rhode Island and I do not agree on everything in this body that comes up—all the policy issues. But on this one we agree that it is necessary to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to deal with this heroin epidemic that is sweeping across our country.

He has been an unwavering ally in trying to find common ground on this legislation. I appreciate him. Again, I think this is an area where we can find common ground on both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Capitol to move legislation forward that can help to deal with this growing issue in our States.

I do not think we can afford to wait. Every day, unfortunately, the number of people who die from heroin overdoses grows. Every day more mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters are lost to this horrible scourge. By the time this year is out, I am told that more than 19,000 Ohioans will have overdosed on heroin or other opiates. The deaths from heroin overdoses this year will be the No. 1 cause of death in the State of Ohio, exceeding traffic accidents.

Elected officials around the country, medical professionals, and grass roots volunteers are dealing with this issue. They are fighting back. They are doing everything in their power to try to save lives and to try to stem this epidemic. But they need help. The challenge we all face is serious. To address it we need a comprehensive effort, marshaling the resources of communities, grass roots organizations, local, State, and, yes, the Federal Government. That is where we come in here, in the Congress.

I think only together can we make progress here and prevent new victims from falling into the grips of addiction. Only together can we help those who are already struggling with heroin to rebuild their lives. I think this bipartisan legislation we have introduced today is the important first step in that. It lays out a broad spectrum response to the epidemic of heroin and opiate addiction.

It starts with prevention and education. Why? Because we know that approach can work. Obviously, it is the most effective way to deal with this, to keep you from getting into the addiction in the first place. Nearly 20 years ago I joined with leaders around southwest Ohio to form what is called the Coalition for a Drug Free Greater Cincinnati. I was here in the Congress on the House side. A constituent came to me and said her son had just died from an overdose of smoking marijuana and huffing gasoline. I was ready for her. I had all the statistics as to what we were doing at the Federal level in terms of eradicating crops in places like Colombia, interdicting drugs, prosecuting people, trying to stop the flow of drugs into this country.

She kind of looked at me and said: How is that going to help me and my community? How would that have helped my kid? How does that help me deal with our church, where people are in denial and will not even talk about it, or our school, where the principal said: It is not a problem here.

So we came up with this notion of these community coalitions. There were a few around the country, and they seemed to be working. Ours in greater Cincinnati has worked well. It is still working well. By working together with grass roots organizations across the spectrum—teachers and parents, law enforcement, religious leaders, the media, business—we pulled together a group. That coalition led to this greater effort that we started in the House, and there is legislation that I authored called the Drug-Free Communities Act, which has now provided funding, by the way, and therefore helped to create thousands of other community coalitions. It has provided funding to over 2,000 community coalitions around the country. There are now about 5,000, I think, around the country. Those have worked. But they are not adequate to deal with this heroin epidemic.

But we start there. We start with this notion that there is a way, through a grass roots program, for more focus on prevention and education to be able to help stem this growing problem; that is, stopping addiction before it even starts. That, of course, again, is the most effective way. It saves money, saves lives. We also, though, have to do more to incentivize new innovative treatment programs for those who have become addicted to try to break the cycle and break the addiction.

We do that in this legislation by encouraging diversion programs like drug courts that provide treatment alternatives to incarceration. We do it by funding evidence-based heroin treatment pilot programs. There are some exciting new medications out there that we think are worth a try, including some new medications that actually block the urge, the craving. We are funding evidence-based treatment programs, but at the same time encouraging the use of emergency medications to stop overdoses.

This is something we have seen in all of our States. It expands the availability of Naloxone, which is an overdose inhibitor that the law enforcement agencies and other first responders have access to in order to be able to keep people not from overdosing—which is happening—but from dying from that overdose.

We know that there have been many lives saved, even over the last couple of years through the use of that medication. We offer more resources to promptly identify and treat incarcerated individuals suffering from addiction disorders by collaborating with criminal justice stakeholders and, again, providing evidence-based treatment. This revolving door in the criminal justice system of people who are drug users getting into prison, getting out again—and within 2 or 3 years over two-thirds of them are back in the system—we are all paying for that. The communities are paying for it with increased crime. The families are paying for it. The taxpayers are also paying for it—$25,000, $30,000 a year for incarcerating individuals, who, if you can get them into a drug treatment program, in part through these drug courts, in part through other programs that are proven to work, they can then not just get over their addiction and not be committing crimes but become productive citizens and taxpayers themselves.

We have seen this lap around the country. We have to be encouraging that and supporting that at the Federal level. I saw a model of this kind of approach when I visited the CompDrug treatment center recently in Columbus, OH. I met with several nurses and

counselors who are there on the front lines in the battle against addiction. They used medication-assisted treatment, but they also use a lot of counseling to help men and women get on this path to recovery. So it is not just the medication, but it has to be a more comprehensive plan. They do this in both a public health capacity but also in connection with a prisoner reentry program.

So, again, it is people coming out of the criminal justice system who have a history of addiction and to get them into this program so they can get not just the treatment they need to get over their addiction but the job training they also need to be able to get back into the workforce to become productive citizens.

We do not stop here in this legislation. If there is one thing I have learned over the last couple of decades working in this area, it is that the best solutions on this are not going to come from Washington. They are going to be developed at the grass roots, on the ground.

What we can do is support those efforts on the ground and provide States with more flexibility to be able to use these resources that are already coming from Washington, so our legislation does that as well.

Our bill offers States that are proactive at enacting proven policies the ability to benefit from support under State incentive grants. These grants will reward States such as Ohio that are improving access to drug-abuse services for specific at-risk individuals and that are working to reach 100-percent compliance with programs such as the prescription drug monitoring program that tracks prescription drugs.

Some States such as Ohio—where we have a big prescription drug problem—there is also southern Ohio with adjoining States West Virginia and Kentucky that have this issue and without a sufficient monitoring program. Some people are getting prescription drugs filled in Ohio and then going across the river to Kentucky and getting them filled. There is no way to monitor that without an effective program. We want to encourage all States to adopt this kind of a program so we know who is getting prescription drugs, who needs them and who is abusing the process.

We also talk about this issue in the abstract. I have done that today talking about numbers—19,000 overdoses. But what does that mean? It is a shockingly high number. We sometimes forget that every one of those overdoses represents a person, a family member, someone who has hopes and dreams, someone who at some point made a mistake, and now that mistake threatens those dreams and often devastates their family, as I have seen and I am sure you have seen. Sometimes it can even result in that person's death. As we talk about overdoses this year, it will be the No. 1 cause of death in my State of Ohio.

I want to share a couple stories briefly before I close, people I have met in Ohio, people in communities in my State who are struggling with the weight of addiction.

I recently met a guy about my age. His name is Paul. Paul came to a roundtable discussion and has been engaged in this issue because his son died of a heroin overdose. He was 19 years old. He died of an overdose 2 days after getting out of rehab. Sadly, that is not an uncommon story. People go into rehab to turn their lives around and many are successful, but many aren't. For some of them when they get out, the temptation is too great and unfortunately their body no longer has the tolerance for the drug it once did and sometimes they overdose. His son was one of those.

This man has been in a lot of pain, I could tell. He is still in a lot of pain. But where he has channeled his grief and his pain is helping others to overcome addiction and to bring this discussion out of the dark, to talk about it.

It is not a comfortable topic for a lot of people to talk about, but he has been willing to do it, to talk about his family situation and talk about the fact that every family around the kitchen table ought to be talking about this subject. We ought to be talking about it in the classrooms. We ought to be sure that people understand the incredible risk and danger our young people face today.

Earlier this year I met a young woman named Sarah. Sarah has been struggling to overcome her own addiction. She has been successful, and I applaud her. She told me: Addiction starts in treatment, ROB, but it also happens in the community. You have to have a surrounding that supports you and encourages you.

She is fighting her own battle, but she is also doing something interesting at Ohio State University. She has started a student-led recovery program, kind of a support network among students.

Again, often this is in the shadows. She has been the one to step forward and say: Hey, I have an issue. I am a recovering addict, and I want other recovering addicts to come and join me and feel support so they don't do what Paul's son did.

Then there is Bill. Bill is in recovery from a heroin addiction that he told me used to cost him $2,000 a week at its height. It cost him his freedom too. He ended up in prison. When he got out of prison, he was able to take advantage of some of these programs we talked about today, some of these prisoner reentry programs and treatment options. Bill turned his life around. Interestingly, he now works at the very corrections facility where he once served.

As he joked with me, he said: I used to be behind bars. Now I hold the keys to the cells and I am spreading a message.

I imagine he is a very credible spokesperson for that message. He is working with inmates to help build relationships and re-entry programs, not just in the prison behind the walls, but also in his community in Canton, OH.

He encourages employers to give people a second chance, to give them a shot. His quote to me was: Don't give them the keys to the safe on the first day, but give them a shot. It worked for me. It can work for others.

This battle against addiction will not be an easy one, we know that, but we also know it is well worth the fight. We have to take the fight.

When we see the number of overdoses drop, and we see statistics showing that fewer kids are using drugs and more people are breaking free of the addiction that once held them, we will know it paid off. It is not only about dollars and cents. Yes, we can save taxpayer money, we can be sure that more people are productively employed, and that our society is more efficient and communities are safer, but ultimately this is about our young people and what kind of future they are going to have.

It is about our children and our grandchildren. Will they have a better shot at their dream, a better shot at getting through school, getting an education, a better shot at getting a decent job and being able to hold it, and a better shot at being able to take care of their own families and having the dignity and self-respect that comes with that? That is ultimately what this legislation is about.

I thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for joining with me to craft this legislation. I also thank Senator LEAHY, who I understand has recently agreed to become an original cosponsor of this bill.

I encourage other Members to take a look at it. It is a good way for us to come together as Republicans and Democrats to focus on an issue that is affecting every single State represented in this body.

Sometimes people are in denial about this subject, but the reality is it affects all of us as Americans.

By Mr. KAINE:

S.J. Res. 44. A joint resolution to authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I am introducing a resolution to provide President Obama with authority in the multinational mission to defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, ISIL, which is meant to reinforce the President's strategy, as well as set key limitations that I hope will be included in final authorizing language for broader Congressional consideration.

President Obama laid out a strong case for the need to defeat ISIL, and asked for Congressional support for this effort. Now is the time for Congress to act to support the President and reestablish balance between the Executive and Legislature on whether or not to engage in significant military action.

I was heartened when Foreign Relations Committee Chairman MENENDEZ answered the President's call by saying the committee would soon craft authorizing language for the U.S. military mission. It is my hope that the proposal I am introducing today will help move the process forward on what a specific and narrow authorization for limited military action against ISIL should look like.

This authorization is specific to ISIL and supports President Obama's key pillars: a multinational effort to degrade and destroy ISIL, the use of necessary and appropriate force in a campaign of air strikes against ISIL in Iraq and Syria and the provision of military equipment to appropriately vetted forces in Iraq and Syria, including the Iraqi security forces, Kurdish fighters, and other legitimate, appropriately vetted, non-terrorist opposition groups in Syria. It also includes four key limitations: no U.S. ground troops; repeal of the 2002 Iraq Authorization for Use of Military Force; sunset after 1 year; and narrow definition of associated forces. I have also included reporting requirements that require the President to update Congress on progress of the mission.

I believe this authorization is needed for two reasons. First, we need to comply with constitutional war powers provisions—Congress declares war and the President, as Commander-in-Chief, executes the mission. Second, and perhaps more importantly, Congressional buy-in represents a core value of our Nation—that the political leadership is willing to do the hard work to reach consensus in support of our servicemembers. If Congress is not willing to do the hard work to debate and vote on an authorization, we should not be asking our servicemembers to go into harm's way.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 551—RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 2014 AS ''NATIONAL CAMPUS SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH'' AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CAMPUS SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 551

Whereas people on college and university campuses are not immune from the potential acts of crime that the rest of society in the United States faces;

Whereas men and women deserve to learn in a positive and safe environment free from sexual assault;

Whereas experts estimate that 1 in 5 female undergraduate students will experience sexual assault or attempted sexual assault;

Whereas the aggressor in a sexual assault is usually an acquaintance or friend of the victim;

Whereas a majority of sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement;

Whereas the majority of stalking victims are between the ages of 18 and 24 years old;

Whereas approximately 3 in 10 women are injured emotionally or psychologically from being stalked;

Whereas the Clery Center for Security on Campus, a nonprofit group dedicated to preventing violence, substance abuse, and other crimes on college and university campuses, has designated September as ''National Campus Safety Awareness Month''; and

Whereas National Campus Safety Awareness Month provides an opportunity for campus communities to become engaged in efforts to improve campus safety: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Campus Safety Awareness Month; and

(2) encourages colleges and universities throughout the United States to provide campus safety and other crime awareness and prevention programs to students throughout the year.

SENATE RESOLUTION 552—SUPPORTING LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL, A NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS HELD ON OCTOBER 23, 2014

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 552

Whereas more than 28,000,000 children in the United States have parents who work outside the home and approximately 15,100,000 children in the United States have no place to go after school;

Whereas high-quality programs that expand learning opportunities for children, such as afterschool, before-school, summer, and expanded learning programs, provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences, including many that emphasize science, technology, engineering, and math, that help children and youth develop social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs and high-quality expanded learning programs provide students with hands-on, engaging lessons that are aligned with the school day;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs complement regular and expanded school days, and support working families by ensuring that the children of those families are safe and productive during the hours parents are working;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs engage families, schools, and diverse community partners in advancing the well-being of children and youth in the United States;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs that partner with high-quality community-based organizations build stronger communities by integrating the school with the larger community;

Whereas Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool, before-school, summer, and expanded learning programs held on October 23, 2014, highlights the critical importance of these high-quality programs in the lives of children, their families, and their communities; and

Whereas nearly 2 in 5 afterschool programs report that their budgets are in worse condition today than at the height of the recession in 2008, and more than 3 in 5 afterschool programs report that their level of funding is lower than it was 3 years ago, making it difficult for afterschool programs across the United States to keep their doors open and their lights on: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 23, 2014.

SENATE RESOLUTION 553—RECOGNIZING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HARTFORD COURANT NEWSPAPER

Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 553

Whereas the first edition of the Hartford Courant was printed on October 29, 1764;

Whereas the Hartford Courant is the oldest continuously published newspaper in the United States;

Whereas the Hartford Courant gave voice to a newfound yearning for freedom as the most circulated newspaper in the colonies during the throes of the Revolutionary War;

Whereas the Hartford Courant demonstrated leadership in actively supporting the presidential efforts of President Abraham Lincoln and his attempts to end slavery during the Civil War; and

Whereas the Hartford Courant is a 5-time finalist and 2-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize for journalistic excellence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significant and positive impact of the Hartford Courant throughout the history of the United States; and

(2) acknowledges the importance of a vibrant free press to democracy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 554—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2014 AS ''NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH''

Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. LEE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 554

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Association of Elementary School Principals have declared the month of October 2014 to be ''National Principals Month'';

Whereas principals are educational visionaries, instructional and assessment leaders, disciplinarians, community builders, budget analysts, facilities managers, and administrators of legal and contractual obligations;

Whereas principals work collaboratively with teachers and parents to develop and implement a clear mission, high curriculum standards, and performance goals;

Whereas principals create school environments that facilitate great teaching and learning and continuous school improvement;

Whereas the vision, actions, and dedication of principals provide the mobilizing force behind any school reform effort; and

Whereas the celebration of National Principals Month would honor elementary school, middle school, and high school principals, and recognize the importance of principals in ensuring that every child has access

to a high-quality education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of October 2014 as ''National Principals Month''; and

(2) honors the contribution of principals in the elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools of the United States by supporting the goals and ideals of National Principals Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 555—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 19, 2014, AS ''NATIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WEEK'' TO RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN TRANSFORMING AND IMPROVING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. THUNE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 555

Whereas health information technology is recognized as an essential tool for improving patient care, ensuring patient safety, stopping duplicative tests and paperwork, and reducing health care costs;

Whereas the Center for Information Technology Leadership estimates that a fully-realized implementation of national standards for interoperability and the exchange of health information can produce significant savings in health care costs;

Whereas the use of health information technology is essential to providing coordinated care, expanding access to care, and improving the quality and safety of mental and physical health care for all individuals in the United States;

Whereas Congress has a vision for a national technology-enabled health care system that—

(1) provides access to care that is available at anytime and anywhere;

(2) recognizes modern, multimodal health care delivery models;

(3) establishes open standards for connectivity to core patient information between health information technology systems, devices, and emerging technologies; and

(4) leverages technology solutions to analyze and improve treatment trends and highlight cost transparency to help combat fraud, waste, and abuse within Federal health programs;

Whereas portable health information, such as cloud-based computing and storage systems that can process vast amounts of patient information for personalized care, integrated consumer devices, and mobile medical applications, are critical technologies for improving the health of all individuals in the United States, creating high-demand jobs, and stimulating market innovation;

Whereas it is necessary to continue improving the exchange of health information confidently and securely between different providers, systems, and insurers, a task that is foundational to transforming the health care delivery system in the United States;

Whereas aligning the use of electronic health records with other reporting efforts is critical to improving clinical outcomes for patients, controlling costs, and expanding access to care through the use of technology; and

Whereas since 2006, organizations across the United States have united to support National Health Information Technology Week to improve public awareness of implementing health information technology to achieve the benefits of improved quality and cost efficiency in the health care system: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 15 through September 19, 2014, as ''National Health Information Technology Week'';

(2) recognizes the value of information technology and management systems in transforming health care for individuals in the United States;

(3) encourages all interested parties to promote the use of information technology and management systems to transform the health care system of the United States; and

(4) calls on all individuals in the United States to be engaged in their mental and physical health by using health information technology.

SENATE RESOLUTION 556—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 12, 2014, AS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 556

Whereas, in 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt established the first national wildlife refuge on Pelican Island in Florida;

Whereas, in 2014, the National Wildlife Refuge System, administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service, is the premier system of lands and waters to conserve wildlife in the world, and has grown to approximately 150,000,000 acres, 562 national wildlife refuges, and 38 wetland management districts in every State and territory of the United States;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are important recreational and tourism destinations in communities across the United States, and these protected lands offer a variety of recreational opportunities, including 6 wildlife-dependent uses that the National Wildlife Refuge System manages: hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation;

Whereas, in 2014, 335 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System have hunting programs and 271 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System have fishing programs, averaging approximately 2,500,000 hunting visits and nearly 7,000,000 fishing visits each year;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System experienced nearly 31,000,000 wildlife observation visits during fiscal year 2013;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are important to local businesses and gateway communities;

Whereas, for every $1 appropriated, national wildlife refuges generate nearly $5 in economic activity;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System experiences over 47,000,000 visits each year, which generated more than $2,400,000,000 and more than 35,000 jobs in local economies during fiscal year 2011;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System encompasses every kind of ecosystem in the United States, including temperate, tropical, and boreal forests, wetlands, deserts, grasslands, arctic tundras, and remote islands, and spans 12 time zones from the Virgin Islands to Guam;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are home to more than 700 species of birds, 220 species of mammals, 250 species of reptiles and amphibians, and more than 1,000 species of fish;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are the primary Federal lands that foster production, migration, and wintering habitat for waterfowl;

Whereas, since 1934, the sale of the Federal Duck Stamp to outdoor enthusiasts has generated more than $850,000,000 in funds, which has enabled the purchase or lease of more than 5,600,000 acres of wetland habitat for waterfowl and numerous other species in the National Wildlife Refuge System;

Whereas the recovery of 386 threatened and endangered species is supported on refuge lands;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are cores of conservation for larger landscapes and resources for other agencies of the Federal Government and State governments, private landowners, and organizations in their efforts to secure the wildlife heritage of the United States;

Whereas more than 38,000 volunteers and approximately 220 national wildlife refuge ''Friends'' organizations contribute more than 1,400,000 hours annually, the equivalent of more than 700 full-time employees, and provide an important link to local communities;

Whereas national wildlife refuges provide an important opportunity for children to discover and gain a greater appreciation for the natural world;

Whereas, because there are national wildlife refuges located in several urban and suburban areas and one refuge located within an hour drive of every metropolitan area in the United States, national wildlife refuges employ, educate, and engage young people from all backgrounds in exploring, connecting with, and preserving the natural heritage of the United States;

Whereas, since 1995, refuges across the United States have held festivals, educational programs, guided tours, and other events to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week during the second full week of October;

Whereas the Fish and Wildlife Service will continue to seek stakeholder input on the implementation of ''Conserving the Future: Wildlife Refuges and the Next Generation'', an update to the strategic plan of the Fish and Wildlife Service for the future of the National Wildlife Refuge System;

Whereas the week beginning on October 12, 2014, has been designated as ''National Wildlife Refuge Week'' by the Fish and Wildlife Service; and

Whereas the designation of National Wildlife Refuge Week by the Senate would recognize more than a century of conservation in the United States, raise awareness about the importance of wildlife and the National Wildlife Refuge System, and celebrate the myriad recreational opportunities available to enjoy this network of protected lands: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on October 12, 2014, as ''National Wildlife Refuge Week'';

(2) encourages the observance of National Wildlife Refuge Week with appropriate events and activities;

(3) acknowledges the importance of national wildlife refuges for their recreational opportunities and contribution to local economies across the United States;

(4) pronounces that national wildlife refuges play a vital role in securing the hunting

and fishing heritage of the United States for future generations;

(5) identifies the significance of national wildlife refuges in advancing the traditions of wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation;

(6) recognizes the importance of national wildlife refuges to wildlife conservation and the protection of imperiled species and ecosystems, as well as compatible uses;

(7) acknowledges the role of national wildlife refuges in conserving waterfowl and waterfowl habitat pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (40 Stat. 755, chapter 128);

(8) reaffirms the support of the Senate for wildlife conservation and the National Wildlife Refuge System; and

(9) expresses the intent of the Senate—

(A) to continue working to conserve wildlife; and

(B) to manage the National Wildlife Refuge System for current and future generations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 557—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING OCTOBER 19, 2014, AS ''NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK''

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 557

Whereas the well-being of the United States requires that the young people of the United States become an involved, caring citizenry of good character;

Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent, as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas, more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by institutions and individuals that influence youth to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas, although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young people to play a role in determining the future of the United States;

Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values, which form the foundation of a democratic society;

Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;

Whereas elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the character and conduct of youth reflect the character and conduct of society, and, therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character;

Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those that have an interest in the education and training of the young people of the United States, to adopt the elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society;

Whereas many schools in the United States recognize the need, and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into teaching activities; and

Whereas the establishment of ''National Character Counts Week'', during which individuals, families, schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, civic groups, and other organizations focus on character education, is of great benefit to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning October 19, 2014, as ''National Character Counts Week''; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups—

(A) to embrace the elements of character identified by local schools and communities, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship; and

(B) to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 558—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22 THROUGH 28, 2014, AS ''NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK''

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 558

Whereas the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development reports that approximately 36,000,000 adults in the United States lack the basic literacy and numeracy necessary to succeed at home, in the workplace, and in society;

Whereas the literacy of the people of the United States is essential for the economic and societal well-being of the United States;

Whereas the United States reaps the economic benefits of individuals who improve their literacy, numeracy, and English-language skills;

Whereas literacy and educational skills are necessary for individuals to fully benefit from the range of opportunities available in the United States;

Whereas the economy and position of the United States in the world marketplace depend on having a literate, skilled population;

Whereas the unemployment rate in the United States is highest among those without a high school diploma or an equivalent credential, demonstrating that education is important to economic recovery;

Whereas the educational skills of a child's parents and the practice of reading to a child have a direct impact on the educational success of the child;

Whereas parental involvement in a child's education is a key predictor of a child's success, and the level of parental involvement in a child's education increases as the educational level of the parent increases;

Whereas parents who participate in family literacy programs become more involved in their children's education and gain the tools necessary to obtain a job or find better employment;

Whereas as a result of family literacy programs, the lives of children become more stable, and their success in the classroom and in future endeavors becomes more likely;

Whereas adults need to be part of a long-term solution to the educational challenges faced by the people of the United States;

Whereas many older people in the United States lack the reading, math, or English skills necessary to read a prescription and follow medical instructions, which endangers their lives and the lives of their loved ones;

Whereas many individuals who are unemployed, underemployed, or receive public assistance lack the literacy skills necessary to obtain and keep a job to provide for their families, to continue their education, or to participate in job training programs;

Whereas many high school dropouts do not have the literacy skills necessary to complete their education, transition to postsecondary education or career and technical training, or obtain a job;

Whereas a large portion of individuals in prison have low educational skills, and prisoners without educational skills are more likely to return to prison once released;

Whereas many immigrants in the United States do not have the literacy skills necessary to succeed in the United States; and

Whereas National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week highlights the need to ensure that each individual in the United States has the literacy skills necessary to succeed at home, at work, and in society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 22 through 28, 2014, as ''National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week'' to raise public awareness about the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy;

(2) encourages people across the United States to support programs to assist individuals in need of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy programs;

(3) recognizes the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy programs; and

(4) calls upon public, private, and nonprofit entities to support increased access to adult education and family literacy programs to ensure a literate society.

SENATE RESOLUTION 559—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 19, 2014, AS ''NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK''

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 559

Whereas chemistry is the science of basic units of matter and, consequently, plays a role in every aspect of human life;

Whereas chemistry has broad applications, including food science, water quality, energy, sustainability, medicine, and electronics;

Whereas the science of chemistry is vital to improving the quality of human life and plays an important role in addressing critical global challenges;

Whereas innovations in chemistry continue to spur economic growth and job creation and have applications for a range of industries;

Whereas National Chemistry Week is part of a broader vision to improve human life through chemistry and to advance the chemistry enterprise and the practitioners of such enterprise for the benefit of communities and the environment;

Whereas the purpose of National Chemistry Week is to reach the public with educational messages about chemistry in order to foster greater understanding and appreciation for the applications and benefits of chemistry;

Whereas National Chemistry Week strives to stimulate the interest of young people, including women and underrepresented groups, in enthusiastically studying science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and in pursuing science-related careers that lead to innovations and major scientific breakthroughs; and

Whereas students who participate in National Chemistry Week deserve recognition and support for their efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on October 19, 2014, as ''National Chemistry Week'';

(2) supports the goals of and welcomes the participants in the 27th annual National Chemistry Week;

(3) recognizes the need to promote the fields of science (including chemistry), technology, engineering, and mathematics and encourage youth to pursue careers in such fields; and

(4) commends the American Chemical Society and the partners of such society for organizing and convening events and activities surrounding National Chemistry Week each year.

SENATE RESOLUTION 560—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2014 AS ''SCHOOL BUS SAFETY MONTH''

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 560

Whereas approximately 480,000 public and private school buses carry 26,000,000 children to and from school every weekday in the United States;

Whereas America's 480,000 public and private school buses comprise the largest mass transportation fleet in the Nation;

Whereas during the school year, school buses make more than 55,000,000 passenger trips daily and students ride these school buses 10,000,000,000 times per year as the Nation's fleet travels over 5,600,000,000 miles per school year;

Whereas school buses are designed to be safer than passenger vehicles and are 13 times safer than other modes of school transportation, and 44 times safer than vehicles driven by teenagers;

Whereas in an average year, about 25 school children are killed in school bus accidents, with one-third of these children struck by their own school buses in loading/unloading zones, one-third struck by motorists who fail to stop for school buses, and one-third killed as they approach or depart a school bus stop;

Whereas The Child Safety Network, celebrating 26 years of national public service, has collaborated with the National PTA and the school bus industry to create public service announcements to reduce distracted driving near school buses, increase ridership, and provide free resources to school districts in order to increase driver safety training, provide free technology for tracking school buses, reduce on-board bullying, and educate students; and

Whereas the adoption of School Bus Safety Month will allow broadcast and digital media and social networking industries to make commitments to disseminate public service announcements designed to save children's lives by making motorists aware of school bus safety issues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 2014 as ''School Bus Safety Month''.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 43—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF A ''NATIONAL LAO-HMONG RECOGNITION DAY''

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 43

Whereas the Lao-Hmong, which means ''free people'', are Laotian members of the Hmong tribe and are noted for their warrior tradition, loyalty, and bravery;

Whereas beginning in 1960, the United States recruited thousands of the Lao-Hmong to fight against the Communist Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese Army regulars in Laos;

Whereas the United States relied heavily on the Lao-Hmong Special Guerrilla Units to engage in direct combat with North Vietnamese troops from 1960 to 1975;

Whereas the Lao-Hmong conducted tactical guerrilla actions, flew thousands of deadly combat missions in support of the Armed Forces and the Central Intelligence Agency, and fought in conventional and guerrilla combat clashes with extreme casualties;

Whereas the Lao-Hmong, although outnumbered, fought against enemy forces to disrupt the flow of troops and war supplies along the Ho Chi Minh Trail;

Whereas the Lao-Hmong protected United States personnel, guarded United States Air Force radar installations, gathered critical intelligence about enemy operations, and undertook rescue missions to save the lives of downed American pilots;

Whereas more than 35,000 of the Lao-Hmong lost their lives, and many more were seriously injured and disabled;

Whereas thousands of Lao-Hmong suffered grievous injuries and permanent disabilities, and thousands more were captured and sent to concentration camps;

Whereas after the conclusion of the war, many Lao-Hmong soldiers were the victims of acts of retribution and atrocities by the Pathet Lao, causing many of the Lao-Hmong to flee to neighboring Thailand and become refugees; and

Whereas beginning with the City Council of Golden, Colorado, in 1995, various State and local governments have issued proclamations declaring July 22 as ''Lao-Hmong Recognition Day'', and the establishment of a ''National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day'' would recognize the bravery, sacrifice, and loyalty to the United States exhibited by the Lao-Hmong in Southeast Asia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) expresses support for the designation of ''National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day''; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe ''National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day'' with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3823. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3824. Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3825. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3826. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3827. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3828. Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WICKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3829. Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3830. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3831. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3832. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3833. Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3834. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3835. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3836. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3837. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3838. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3839. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3840. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3841. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3842. Mr. NELSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3823. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1647. PLAN FOR EDUCATION OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES ON CYBER MATTERS.

(a) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 360 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in cooperation with the Secretaries of the military departments, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for the education of officers and enlisted members of the Armed Forces relating to cyber security and cyber activities of the Department of Defense.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The plan submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A framework for provision of basic cyber education for all members of the Armed Forces.

(2) A framework for undergraduate and postgraduate education, joint professional military education, and strategic war gaming for cyber strategic and operational leadership.

(3) Definitions of required positions, including military occupational specialties and rating specialties for each military department, along with the corresponding level of cyber training, education, qualifications, or certifications required for each specialty.

SA 3824. Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 606, line 5, strike ''**SUPPLIES**'' and insert ''**ASSEMBLIES**''.

On page 606, line 12, strike ''supplies critical'' and insert ''critical assemblies, such as rocket engines,''.

On page 607, line 1, strike ''supplies critical'' and insert ''critical assemblies''.

On page 607, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the placement of orders or the exercise of options under a contract that is in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

On page 607, line 3, strike ''(c)'' and insert ''(d)''.

On page 607, lines 5 and 6, strike ''or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation''.

On page 609, line 4, insert ''certified under the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle program'' after ''providers''.

On page 612, strike lines 19 through 22, and insert the following:

(3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees the plan required by paragraph (1) not later than December 31, 2014.

(B) EXTENSION OF DEADLINE.—The Secretary may submit the plan required by paragraph (1) to the congressional defense committees at a date later than the date specified in subparagraph (A) if the Secretary—

(i) determines that is it not practicable to submit the plan by the date specified in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) submits to the congressional defense committees a report on the determination under clause (i) and the reasons for the determination.

SA 3825. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. IMPROVED ENUMERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN ANY TABULATION OF TOTAL POPULATION BY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 141 of title 13, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

''(g) Effective beginning with the 2020 decennial census of population, in taking any tabulation of total population by States, the Secretary shall take appropriate measures to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that all members of the Armed Forces deployed abroad on the date of taking such tabulation are—

''(1) fully and accurately counted; and

''(2) properly attributed to the State in which their residence at their permanent duty station or homeport is located on such date.''.

(b) CONSTRUCTION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall not be construed to affect the residency status of any member of the Armed Forces under any provision of law other than title 13, United States Code.

SA 3826. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title V, add the following:

SEC. 535. TROOPS-TO-TEACHERS PROGRAM.

Section 1154 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (j); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (h) the following new subsection (i):

''(i) GRANTS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO FACILITATE MEMBERS BECOMING TEACHERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—During fiscal years 2015 through 2018, the Secretary may, using funds available under paragraph (8), make grants to eligible institutions of higher education to be used by such institutions to assist members of the armed forces in becoming elementary school and secondary school teachers in schools described in subsection (b)(2).

''(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—For purposes of this subsection, an eligible institution of higher education is an institution of higher education that—

''(A) has a main campus physically located not more than 30 miles from a major military installation that serves a very large number of members of the armed forces;

''(B) has an accredited college of education;

''(C) has a strong tradition of working with the armed forces;

''(D) has an undergraduate student body that includes not less than 1,000 students who are members of the armed forces, veterans, and members of the immediate families of members of the armed forces or veterans; and

''(E) has a consistent graduation rate of students in teacher education of 65 percent, as measured from the time a student is formally admitted into the teacher education program.

''(3) USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each institution of higher educational awarded a grant under this section shall use grant amounts for purposes as follows:

''(i) To provide each eligible member of the armed forces participating in the Program under this subsection a stipend not in excess of $5,000 each academic year.

''(ii) To provide each eligible member of the armed forces participating in the Program under this subsection other services (often called 'wraparound services') to assist the member in becoming a teacher, including scholarships, internship support, mentoring, child-care services, transportation expenses, undergraduate research opportunities, professional development, proprietary instructional supplies, expenses directly related to ease the burden of student teaching, academic tutoring, individualized counseling services, and in the case of members transferring from community colleges, bridge programs to assist in that transition.

''(B) CONSTRUCTION WITH STIPEND LIMITATION.—Any stipend provided under this paragraph shall not be treated as a stipend subject to the limitation in subsection (e)(3)(C).

''(4) ELIGIBLE MEMBERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, for purposes of this subsection, an eligible member of the armed forces is any member of the armed forces who—

''(i) before commencing participation in the Program under this subsection—

''(I) has served satisfactorily on active duty in the armed forces for four or more years;

''(II) has successfully completed all the education foundation courses required by the institution of higher education concerned for pursuit of a degree as an elementary school or secondary school teacher; and

''(III) possesses the academic or other qualifications required by the institution of higher education concerned for pursuit of a degree as an elementary school or secondary school teacher; and

''(ii) agrees to obtain any security clearance required for an elementary school or secondary school teacher in the State in which the member intends to obtain employment as a teacher after receipt of an education degree through support pursuant to the Program under this subsection.

''(B) SELECTION.—The Secretary may delegate to an institution of higher education awarded a grant under this subsection the authority to select eligible members for participation in the Program under this subsection at such institution of higher education.

''(C) CONTINUATION AFTER SEPARATION FROM MILITARY.—Except as provided in subparagraph (D), an eligible member participating in the Program under this subsection may continue to participate in the Program under this subsection after the retirement, separation, or release of the member from the armed forces if the member's last period of service in the armed forces is characterized as honorable by the Secretary concerned.

''(D) LIMITATION.—A veteran eligible for benefits under chapter 33 of title 38 may not participate in the Program under this subsection.

''(5) REPORTS BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—Each institution of higher education awarded a grant under this subsection shall submit to the Secretary each year a report summarizing the participation of eligible members of the armed forces in the Program under this subsection through such institution of higher education from the commencement of the participation of members in the Program until three years after the receipt by members of education degrees through support pursuant to the Program. Each report shall summarize the following:

''(A) The amounts provided eligible members under paragraph (3).

''(B) The progress of eligible members after receipt of education degrees in obtaining and discharging employment as elementary school or secondary school teachers.

''(6) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than December 31, 2018, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the effectiveness of activities under the Program under this subsection in meeting the objectives set forth in subsection (b). The Secretary may submit to such committees such other reports on activities under the Program under this subsection as the Secretary considers appropriate to keep such committees informed of such activities.

''(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) The term 'institution of higher education' has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (10 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

''(B) The term 'veteran' has the meaning given that term in section 101(2) of title 38.

''(8) FUNDS.—Of the amount available for the Program in each of fiscal years 2015 through 2018, up to amount equal to 25 percent of such amount may be used for grants under this subsection.''.

SA 3827. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title V, add the following:

SEC. 515. RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU IN THE SELECTION OF ADDITIONAL GENERAL OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 10506(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''upon the recommendation of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau'' after ''by the Secretary of the Army''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''upon the recommendation of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau'' after ''by the Secretary of the Air Force''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to assignments to the National Guard Bureau under section 10506 of title 10, United States Code, that occur after that date.

SA 3828. Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WICKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 123 and insert the following:

SEC. 123. AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER CERTAIN FUNDS FOR REFUELING OF AIRCRAFT CARRIER AND CONSTRUCTION OF AMPHIBIOUS SHIP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To the extent provided in appropriations Acts, upon a determination described in subsection (b), the Secretary of the Navy is authorized to transfer funds available in Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy or any other Navy procurement account for either or both of the following purposes:

(1) Up to $800,000,000 to conduct a refueling and complex overhaul of the U.S.S. George Washington (CVN–73).

(2) Up to $800,000,000 for the ship construction of a San Antonio class amphibious ship.

(b) DETERMINATION.—A determination described in this subsection is a determination by the Secretary of the Navy that—

(1) unobligated balances are available in the program or programs from which funds will be transferred pursuant to subsection (a) due to slower than expected program execution; and

(2) the transfer of funds will fill a high priority military need and is in the best interest of the Department of the Navy.

(c) CONTINGENT AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of the Navy is authorized to enter into a contract for the procurement of one San Antonio class amphibious ship beginning in fiscal year 2015, and to use incremental funding for the procurement of that ship, if additional funds are made available for such purpose in fiscal year 2015 and the Secretary determines that such procurement will fill a high priority military need and is in the best interests of the Department of the Navy.

(d) EFFECT ON AUTHORIZATION AMOUNTS.—A transfer made from one account to another under the authority of this section shall be deemed to increase the amount authorized for the account to which the amount is transferred by an amount equal to the amount transferred.

(e) CONSTRUCTION OF AUTHORITY.—The transfer authority under this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided in this Act.

SA 3829. Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1247. INF TREATY INSPECTION AND VERIFICATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States has determined that the Russian Federation is in violation of its obligations under the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, signed at Washington December 8, 1987, and entered into force June 1, 1988 (commonly referred to as the ''INF Treaty'') not to possess, produce, or flight-test ground-launched missiles with range capabilities of 500 to 5,500 kilometers, or to possess or produce launchers of such missiles.

(2) The United States Government has raised INF compliance concerns with the Russian Federation on repeated occasions in an effort to resolve United States concerns. The United States Government continues to attempt to address these very serious matters with the Government of the Russian Federation.

(3) On April 2, 2014, General Philip Breedlove, Commander of the United States European Command and Supreme Allied Commander Europe, stated, ''A weapon capability that violates the INF Treaty, that is introduced into the greater European land mass is absolutely a tool that will have to be dealt with . . . It cannot go unanswered.''

(4) The July 31, 2014, annual Department of State Report on Arms Control Compliance stated, ''The United States has determined that the Russian Federation is in violation of its obligations under the INF Treaty not to possess, produce, or flight-test a ground-launched cruise missiles with range capabilities of 500 km to 5,500 km, or to possess or produce launchers of such missiles.''

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the responsibility for violating the terms and the spirit of the INF Treaty lies solely with Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin;

(2) the President should hold the Government of the Russian Federation accountable for these breaches of its obligations under the INF Treaty and obtain the complete and verifiable elimination of any military capabilities acquired as a result of flight testing ground launched missiles with ranges prohibited by the INF Treaty; and

(3) bringing the Russian Federation back into compliance with the INF Treaty will require a new verification and inspection regime that includes vigorous onsite inspections and interviews.

(c) REPORT ON INSPECTION AND VERIFICATION REGIME.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report, in classified and unclassified form, that includes a new INF inspection and verification regime that will ensure compliance of the Russian Federation with the INF Treaty.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall, at a minimum, include the following elements:

(A) A complete list of facilities that will require onsite inspections to ensure INF-

noncompliant missiles and launchers are destroyed and that additional INF-noncompliant systems are not being developed tested, manufactured, or deployed.

(B) A list of individuals who could be interviewed to determine the extent of INF violations.

(C) A mechanism for sharing this and other relevant information with countries whose borders are within 5,500 kilometers of the Russian Federation.

(D) A cost estimate of the inspection regime.

(d) REPORT ON LEGAL ANALYSIS FOR COMPLIANCE JUDGMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees the legal analysis underpinning any compliance judgment for any ground launched missile system where the assessed deployed range is between 500 and 5,500 kilometers.

(e) NOTIFICATION OF CERTAIN DEPLOYMENTS.—The Director of National Intelligence shall promptly notify the appropriate congressional committees in writing of any deployment by the Russian Federation of ground launched missile systems with assessed deployed ranges between 500 and 5500 kilometers. The notification shall include the system, deployment site, numbers, and other relevant information.

(f) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the congressional defense committees;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SA 3830. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After section 1067, insert the following:

SEC. 1067A. REPEAL OF CERTAIN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) INFORMATION TO ACCOMPANY FUNDING REQUESTS FOR CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.—Section 113 is amended by striking subsection (m).

(2) REPORT ON PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN CIVILIAN PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT CONSTRAINTS.—Section 129 is amended by striking subsection (f).

(3) ANNUAL REPORT ON COMBATANT COMMAND ACTIVITIES.—Section 153 is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (c); and

(B) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(4) OVERSIGHT OF PROCUREMENT, TEST, AND OPERATIONAL PLANS FOR BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE PROGRAMS.—Section 223a is amended by striking subsection (d).

(5) ANNUAL REPORT ON COMBATING TERRORISM.—

(A) REPEAL.—Chapter 9 is amended by striking section 229.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 9 is amended by striking the item relating to section 229.

(6) REPORT ON MILITARY FAMILY READINESS.—Section 1781b is amended by striking subsection (d).

(7) NOTIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT SCHEDULED FOR RETIREMENT OR DISPOSAL.—Section 2244a(c) is amended by striking the second sentence.

(8) REPORT ON PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTING WITH ENTITIES THAT COMPLY WITH THE SECONDARY ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL.—Section 2410i(c) is amended by striking the second sentence.

(9) ANNUAL REPORT ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE COMPETITION.—

(A) REPEAL.—Chapter 146 is amended by striking section 2462.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 146 is amended by striking the item relating to section 2462.

(10) STRATEGIC SOURCING PLAN OF ACTION AND REPORT ON SAVINGS, CONSOLIDATION, RESTRUCTURING, OR REENGINEERING.—

(A) REPEAL.—Chapter 146 is further amended by striking section 2475.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 146 is further amended by striking the item relating to section 2475.

(11) REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL BASE GUIDANCE.—

(A) REPEAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 148 is amended by striking section 2504.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter II of chapter 148 is amended by striking the item relating to section 2504.

(12) NOTIFICATION OF AWARD OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS TO ENTITIES CONTROLLED BY A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT.—Section 2536(b) is amended—

(A) by striking ''(1) The Secretary concerned'' and inserting ''The Secretary concerned'';

(B) by striking paragraph (2);

(C) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively; and

(D) in paragraph (2), as redesignated by subparagraph (A), by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(13) REPORT ON RELOCATION OF MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING UNITS.—Section 2827 is amended—

(A) by striking ''(a) Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary'' and inserting ''The Secretary''; and

(B) by striking subsection (b).

(14) ANNUAL REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HOUSING FUNDS.—Section 2884 is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (b);

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) by redesignating paragraph (2) as subsections (b);

(ii) in paragraph (1), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively;

(iii) by striking ''REPORTS.—'' and all that follows through ''(1) The Secretary'' and inserting ''REPORTS.—The Secretary''; and

(iv) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

(C) in subsection (b), as redesignated by subparagraph (B)(i)—

(i) by inserting ''ELEMENTS.—'' before ''For each proposed contract'';

(ii) by striking ''paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''subsection (a)''; and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), and (E) as paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4), respectively; and

(D) in subsection (c), as redesignated by subparagraph (B)(iv)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as paragraph (2);

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by redesignating clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively;

(iii) by striking ''(A) In the case'' and inserting ''CONTRACTS WITH PRIVATE PARTIES.—(1) In the case'';

(iv) by striking ''paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''subsection (a)''; and

(v) in paragraph (2), as redesignated by subparagraph (A), by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively.

(15) NOTIFICATION OF MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT CONDUCTED USING PROCEEDS FROM SALE OF ELECTRICITY FROM ALTERNATE ENERGY AND COGENERATION PRODUCTION FACILITIES.—Section 2916 is amended by striking subsection (c).

(b) NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACTS.—

(1) REPORT ON PRICE TREND ANALYSIS FOR SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT PURCHASED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE UNDER NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011.—Section 892 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111–383; 10 U.S. C. 2306a note) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (b); and

(B) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively.

(2) DISPLAY OF ANNUAL BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR SOVEREIGNTY ALERT MISSION UNDER DUNCAN HUNTER NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009.—Section 354 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 10 U.S. C. 221 note) is hereby repealed.

(3) REPORT ON GRANTS OF EXCEPTION TO COSTS OR PRICING DATA CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND WAIVERS OF COST ACCOUNTING STANDARDS IMDER BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003.—Section 817 of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–314; 10 U.S. C. 2306a note) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (d);

(B) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d); and

(C) in subsection (d), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking ''this section:'' and all that follows through ''(1) The term'' and inserting ''this section, the term'';

(ii) by striking paragraph (2); and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, and moving such paragraphs, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the left.

(4) REPORT ON ENHANCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES OF DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY UNDER NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000.—Section 1409 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106–65; 22 U.S. C. 2778 note) is amended—

(A) by striking ''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than'' and inserting ''Not later than''; and

(B) by striking subsection (b).

(5) REPORT ON EXPERIMENTAL PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL UNDER NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999.—Section 1101 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105–261; 5 U.S. C. 3104 note) is amended by striking subsection (g).

(c) REPORT ON ADMINISTRATION AND OVERSIGHT UNDER ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME ACT OF 1991.—Section 1511 of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Act of 1991 (24 U.S. C. 411) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (h); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (h).

(d) AUDITS OF UNDEFINITIZED CONTRACTS UNDER DEFENSE ACQUISITION IMPROVEMENT

ACT OF 1986.—Section 908(b) of the Defense Acquisition Improvement Act of 1986 (as enacted pursuant to section 101(c) of Public Law 99–500 (100 Stat. 1783–140) and identically enacted pursuant to section 101(c) of Public Law 99–591 (100 Stat. 3341–140) and Public Law 99–661 (100 Stat. 3919; 10 U.S. C. 2326 note)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''shall—'' and all that follows through ''(1) periodically conduct an audit'' and inserting ''shall periodically conduct an audit'';

(2) by striking ''departments; and'' and inserting ''departments.''; and

(3) by striking paragraph (2).

(e) REPORTS UNDER OTHER ACTS.—

(1) COMMERCIALIZATION PILOT PROGRAM UNDER SMALL BUSINESS ACT.—Section 9(y)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S. C. 638(y)(6)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting ''; and'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (C).

(2) REPORT ON MERITORIOUS SECURITY WAIVERS UNDER INTELLIGENCE REFORM AND TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2004.—Section 3002(c) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S. C. 3343c(c)) is amended by striking paragraph (4).

SA 3831. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title III, add the following:

SEC. 354. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO PROVISION OF INSTALLATION-SUPPORT SERVICES THROUGH INTERGOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT AGREEMENTS.

(a) TRANSFER OF SECTION 2336 TO CHAPTER 159.—

(1) TRANSFER AND REDESIGNATION.—Section 2336 of title 10, United States Code, is transferred to chapter 159 of such title, inserted after section 2678, and redesignated as section 2679.

(2) REVISED SECTION HEADING.—The heading of such section, as so transferred and redesignated, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 2679. Installation-support services: intergovernmental support agreements''.

(b) CLARIFYING AMENDMENTS.—Such section, as so transferred and redesignated, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''The Secretary concerned'' and inserting ''Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary concerned''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an'' and inserting ''An'';

(ii) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (A) and (B) respectively; and

(2) by adding at the end of subsection (e) the following new paragraph:

''(4) The term 'intergovernmental support agreement' means a legal instrument reflecting a relationship between the Secretary concerned and a State or local government that contains such terms and conditions as the Secretary concerned considers appropriate for the purposes of this section and necessary to protect the interests of the United States.''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 137 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 2336.

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 159 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2678 the following new item:

''2679. Installation-support services: intergovernmental support agreements.''.

SA 3832. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 1034 and insert the following:

SEC. 1034. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS TO TRANSFER OR RELEASE INDIVIDUALS DETAINED AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), no funds may be obligated or expended to transfer or release any covered detainee at Guantanamo to the custody or control of such individual's country of origin, any other foreign country, or any other foreign entity—

(1) except as provided in paragraph (2), until the earlier of—

(A) the date that is 90 days after the date of submittal to Congress of the report required by subsection (d); or

(B) the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) in the case of a transfer or release to the custody or control of the Republic of Yemen or any entity within Yemen, until January 1, 2016.

(b) EXCEPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to the obligation or expenditure of funds to transfer any covered detainee at Guantanamo to effectuate an order affecting the disposition of such individual that is issued by a court or competent tribunal of the United States having lawful jurisdiction.

(2) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of Defense shall promptly notify the appropriate committees of Congress of the issuance of any order described in paragraph (1).

(3) DELAY IN DISCHARGE.—An order described in paragraph (1) may not be carried out until the date that is 5 days after the date on which the appropriate committees of Congress are notified of the order pursuant to paragraph (2).

(c) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An officer or employee of the United States shall be liable in his or her individual capacity for a civil penalty of $10,000 for each covered detainee at Guantanamo transferred or released in violation of subsection (a) pursuant to an action or order of the officer or employee of the United States.

(2) NO REPRESENTATION BY UNITED STATES.—Notwithstanding section 50.15 or 50.16 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, or any other provision of law, the United States Government may not provide representation to, or retain or reimburse private counsel for the representation of, an officer or employee in an action under paragraph (1).

(3) QUI TAM ACTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A person may bring a civil action for a violation of subsection (a) for the person and for the United States Government, seeking a civil penalty under paragraph (1). The action shall be brought in the name of the Government. The action may be dismissed only if the court and the Attorney General give written consent to the dismissal and their reasons for consenting.

(B) COMPLAINT.—A copy of the complaint and written disclosure of substantially all material evidence and information the person possesses shall be served on the Government pursuant to rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The Government may elect to intervene and proceed with the action within 30 days after it receives both the complaint and the material evidence and information.

(C) DETERMINATION BY GOVERNMENT.—Before the expiration of the 30-day period under subparagraph (B), the Government shall—

(i) proceed with the action, in which case the action shall be conducted by the Government; or

(ii) notify the court that it declines to take over the action, in which case the person bringing the action shall have the right to conduct the action.

(D) INDIVIDUAL CONDUCTING ACTION.—If the Government elects not to proceed with the action, and upon request and at the Government's expense, the Government shall be served with copies of all pleadings filed in the action and shall be supplied with copies of all deposition transcripts.

(E) AWARD TO QUI TAM PLAINTIFF.—A person bringing an action under subparagraph (A) shall receive 50 percent of the amount of the civil penalty imposed on the officer or employee of the United States and the court shall award the person reasonable expenses which the court finds to have been necessarily incurred, plus reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, to be paid by the defendant.

(F) EXPEDITED APPEAL OF DISMISSAL.—It shall be the duty of the courts of the United States to advance on the docket and to expedite to the greatest possible extent the disposition of any appeal by a person bringing a civil action under subparagraph (A) of the dismissal of the civil action with the consent of the Attorney General.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report setting forth the following:

(A) A detailed description of the previous assessments by Joint Task Force Guantanamo regarding the risk that the 5 detainees transferred from United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay Cuba, to Qatar on May 31, 2014, would reengage in terrorist activity after transfer.

(B) A detailed description of any changes between the assessments described in subparagraph (A) and the assessments as of May 31, 2014, of the risk that the detainees described in that subparagraph would reengage in terrorist activity after transfer as described in that subparagraph, including the reasons for such changes.

(C) A detailed description of the prior instances, if any, in which Qatar did not fully honor its commitments to monitor, detain, or control the travel of individuals formerly detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.

(D) A detailed assessment of the likelihood that the 5 detainees described in subparagraph (A) will return to Afghanistan or reengage in terrorism.

(E) A detailed assessment of whether the transfer of the 5 detainees as described in subparagraph (A) will increase the likelihood that the Taliban and terrorist groups around the world will try to capture United States individuals or personnel in order to obtain concessions from the United States.

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

(e) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OR RELEASE OF DETAINEES AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, WITHOUT EXPRESS WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION OF THE PRESIDENT.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—No detainee described in paragraph (2) may be transferred or released from United States Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to a foreign country without the express written authorization of the President.

(2) COVERED DETAINEES.—A detainee described in this paragraph is Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or any other detainee who—

(A) is not a United States citizen or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States;

(B) is or was held on or after January 20, 2009, at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense; and

(C) is held as of the date of the enactment of this Act at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.

(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to modify, limit, or supersede the requirements under section 1035 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (10 U.S.C. 801 note) relating to the transfer or release of an individual detained at Guantanamo (as defined in subsection (e)(2) of such section).

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) The term ''covered detainee at Guantanamo'' means each individual who—

(A) is not a United States citizen or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(B) is or was held on January 20, 2009, at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.

(3) The term ''officer or employee of the United States''—

(A) includes—

(i) the President;

(ii) the head and any officer or employee of any Executive agency or military department (as those terms are defined in chapter 1 of title 5, United States Code); and

(iii) any other officer or employee of the United States; and

(B) does not include—

(i) a member of the Armed Forces; or

(ii) an officer or employee of an element of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)).

SA 3833. Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 737. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE REHABILITATION AND VOCATIONAL BENEFITS TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH SEVERE INJURIES OR ILLNESSES.

Section 1631(b)(2) of the Wounded Warrior Act (title XVI of Public Law 110–181; 122 Stat. 458; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2014'' and inserting ''December 31, 2015''.

SA 3834. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITION ON EMPLOYMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OF INDIVIDUALS AND CONTRACTORS WITH SERIOUSLY DELINQUENT TAX DEBTS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—An individual or contractor with a seriously delinquent tax debt may not be appointed to, or continue serving in, a position within or funded by the Department of Defense.

(b) SERIOUSLY DELINQUENT TAX DEBT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''seriously delinquent tax debt'' means an outstanding debt under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for which a notice of lien has been filed in public records pursuant to section 6323 of such Code, except that such term does not include—

(1) a debt that is being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement under section 6159 or section 7122 of such Code; and

(2) a debt with respect to which a collection due process hearing under section 6330 of such Code, or relief under subsection (a), (b), or (f) of section 6015 of such Code, is requested or pending.

SA 3835. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. REPORT ON BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AT THE END OF EACH FISCAL YEAR.

Not later March 1 each year, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress, and publish on the Internet website of the Department of Defense available to the public, the following:

(1) The total dollar amount of all balances carried forward by the Department of Defense at the end of the previous fiscal year by account.

(2) The total dollar amount of all unobligated balances carried forward by the Department of Defense at the end of the previous fiscal year by account.

(3) The total dollar amount of any balances (both obligated and unobligated) that have been carried forward by the Department of Defense for five years or more as of the end of the previous fiscal year by account.

SA 3836. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. CONSOLIDATION OF DUPLICATIVE AND OVERLAPPING AGENCIES, PROGRAMS, AND ACTIVITIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the heads of other departments and agencies of the Federal Government—

(1) use available administrative authority to eliminate, consolidate, or streamline Government agencies, programs, and activities with duplicative and overlapping missions as identified in Government Accountability Office reports on duplication and overlap in Government programs;

(2) identify and submit to Congress a report setting the legislative action required to further eliminate, consolidate, or streamline Government agencies, programs, and activities with duplicative and overlapping missions as identified in the reports referred to in paragraph (1); and

(3) determine the total cost savings that—

(A) will accrue to each department, agency, and office effected by an action under paragraph (1) as a result of the actions taken under that paragraph; and

(B) could accrue to each department, agency, and office effected by an action under paragraph (2) as a result of the actions proposed to be taken under that paragraph using the legislative authority set forth under that paragraph.

SA 3837. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 830. ENHANCED WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION FOR CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES.

(a) PROHIBITION ON PREVENTION OF WHISTLEBLOWER DISCLOSURES.—

(1) DEFENSE CONTRACTS.—Section 2409(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''may not be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for disclosing'' and inserting ''may not be prohibited in any way from, or discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for, disclosing''.

(2) CIVILIAN CONTRACTS.—Section 4705(b) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking ''may not be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for disclosing'' and inserting ''may not be prohibited in any way from, or discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for, disclosing''.

(b) CONTRACT CLAUSE REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulation and the Defense Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be amended to require that any contract entered into after such date by an executive agency, and any subcontract at any tier, include the following clause: ''The contractor shall not enter into any agreement with an employee performing work under this contract that would prohibit that employee from disclosing information as described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 2409(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code or section 4705(b) of title 41, United States Code, to officials described in such sections.''.

(2) EXECUTIVE AGENCY DEFINED.—The term ''executive agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code.

SA 3838. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. LIMITATION ON GOVERNMENT AGENCY EXPENDITURES ON CONFERENCES.

(a) CONFERENCE LIMITATIONS.—

(1) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT EXPENDED ON A CONFERENCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—No agency may expend more than $500,000 to support a single conference, unless the head of the agency and the Chief Financial Officer of the agency submits to Congress before the conference a written certification that the conference is in the national interest, which shall include—

(i) an estimate of the total cost of the conference;

(ii) the dates of the conference;

(iii) an estimate of the number of full-time equivalent employees attending the conference;

(iv) any costs associated with planning for the conference; and

(v) an explanation of how the conference advances the mission of the agency.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to preclude an agency from receiving financial support or other assistance from a foundation or other non-Federal source to pay or defray the costs of a conference.

(2) LIMITATION ON CONFERENCE POLICIES.—An agency may not establish or implement a policy that discourages or prohibits the selection of a location for travel, an event, a meeting, or a conference because the location is perceived to be a resort or vacation destination.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''agency'' has the meaning given that term under section 5701(1) of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) the term ''conference'' means a meeting, retreat, seminar, symposium, or event that involves attendee travel.

SA 3839. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. DATABASE ON PATIENT SAFETY, QUALITY OF CARE, AND OUTCOME MEASURES REGARDING HEALTH CARE PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE DATABASE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall develop and make available to the public a comprehensive database containing all applicable patient safety, quality of care, and outcome measures for health care provided by the Department of Defense that are tracked by the Secretary.

(2) UPDATES.—The Secretary shall update the database required by paragraph (1) not less frequently than once every six months.

(3) UNAVAILABLE MEASURES.—For any measure that the Secretary would otherwise publish in the database required by paragraph (1) but has not done so because such measure is not available, the Secretary shall publish notice in the database of the reason for such unavailability and a timeline for making such measure available in the database.

(4) ACCESSIBILITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that the database required by paragraph (1) is accessible to the public through the primary Internet website of the Department and through each primary Internet website of a Department medical center.

(b) SHARING OF INFORMATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENT MEDICAL CENTERS AND DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY.—The Secretary of Defense shall take appropriate actions to facilitate and enhance sharing between the medical centers of the Department of Defense and the Defense Health Agency on information on patient safety, quality of care, and outcomes for health care provided by such medical centers, including information obtained through the measures developed pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) HOSPITAL COMPARE WEBSITE OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.—

(1) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Health and Human Services for the provision by the Secretary of Defense of such information as the Secretary of Health and Human Services may require to report and make publicly available patient quality and outcome information concerning Department of Defense medical centers through the Hospital Compare Internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services or any successor Internet website.

(2) INFORMATION PROVIDED.—The information provided by the Secretary of Defense to the Secretary of Health and Human Services under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Measures of timely and effective health care.

(B) Measures of readmissions, complications of death, including with respect to 30-day mortality rates and 30-day readmission rates, surgical complication measures, and health care related infection measures.

(C) Survey data of patient experiences, including the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems or any similar successor survey developed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

(D) Any other measures required of or reported with respect to hospitals participating in the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.).

(3) UNAVAILABLE INFORMATION.—For any applicable metric collected by the Department of Defense or required to be provided under paragraph (2) and withheld from or unavailable in the Hospital Compare Internet website or successor Internet website, the Secretary of Defense shall publish a notice on such Internet website stating the reason why such metric was withheld from public disclosure and a timeline for making such metric available, if applicable.

(d) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SAFETY AND QUALITY METRICS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the safety and quality metrics made publicly available by the Secretary of Defense under this section to assess the degree to which the Secretary is complying with the provisions of this section.

SA 3840. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title II, add the following:

SEC. 215. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PLANS FOR SOFTWARE FOR F–35 AIRCRAFT.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that software in weapon systems of the United States has become more complex and a larger portion of the acquisition and sustainment costs of such systems.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should—

(1) submit to the congressional defense committees executable timelines and sustainment plans for each section of the report submitted to the congressional defense committees under section 218(a)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (127 Stat. 707; Public Law 113–66);

(2) submit to the congressional defense committees executable timelines and sustainment plans for the source of repair or sustainment decisions for the totality of the software for the F–35 aircraft program that was recommended in such report; and

(3) establish the baseline for software sustainment for the F–35 aircraft program at the earlier of the date—

(A) of the first initial operating capability (IOC) of such program;

(B) on which the F–35 aircraft is fielded or tasked; or

(C) when combatant commanders start integrating the F–35 aircraft into training, operations, or planning.

SA 3841. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction,

and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2842. REDESIGNATION OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER IN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, AS PFC HAROLD EUGENE "GENE" SELLERS–UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The United States Armed Forces Reserve Center located at 6109 C W Post Road, Jonesboro, Arkansas, is hereby renamed the ''PFC Harold Eugene 'Gene' Sellers–United States Armed Forces Reserve Center''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference to the United States Armed Forces Reserve Center located at 6109 C W Post Road, Jonesboro, Arkansas, in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be deemed to be a reference to the PFC Harold Eugene ''Gene'' Sellers–United States Armed Forces Reserve Center.

SA 3842. Mr. NELSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2835. LAND CONVEYANCE, FORMER LYNN HAVEN FUEL DEPOT, LYNN HAVEN, FLORIDA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Air Force may convey to the City of Lynn Haven, Florida (in this section referred to as the ''City''), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, including improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 144 acres at the former Lynn Haven Fuel Depot in Bay County, Florida.

(2) EXCLUDED PROPERTY.—The real property to be conveyed under paragraph (1) shall not include the portion of the former Lynn Haven Fuel Depot authorized to be conveyed by the Secretary to Florida State University by section 2843 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (division B of Public Law 110–181; 122 Stat. 553).

(b) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) CONSIDERATION REQUIRED.—As consideration for the conveyance under subsection (a)(1), the City shall pay to the United States an amount equal to the fair market value of the real property to be conveyed, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) TREATMENT OF CASH PAYMENTS RECEIVED.—Cash payment received by the Secretary under subsection (b)(1) shall be deposited in the special account in the Treasury established for the Secretary under subsection (e) of section 2667 of title 10, United States Code, and shall be available to the Secretary for the same uses and subject to the same limitations as provided in that section.

(c) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the real property to be conveyed under subsection (a)(1) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

(d) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 17, 2014.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 17, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. in room SR–253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 17, 2014, at 10:15 a.m., in room SD–215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Reforming America's Outdated Energy Tax Code.''

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate September 17, 2014, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 17, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''United States Strategy to Defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.''

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 17, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 17, 2014, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 17, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on September 17, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Judicial Nominations.''

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on September 17, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., in room SH–216 of the Hart Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Why Net Neutrality Matters: Protecting Consumers and Competition Through Meaningful Open Internet Rules.''

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 17, 2014, in room S–216 of the Capitol Building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC POLICY

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Policy be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 17, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Who Is The Economy Working For? The Impact of Rising Inequality on the American Economy.''

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the privileges of the floor be granted to Chikulupi Kasaka.

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that K.C. Courtland, who has been a military fellow in our office, be granted the privileges of the floor for today's session of the Senate.

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

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Scott Robertson, a fellow with the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today's session, and that Brent Becker and Ben Strube, interns with the committee also be granted floor privileges for today's session.

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to Maj. David James Wilson, a U.S. Air Force officer who is currently serving as a defense legislative fellow in my office, for the duration of today's session of the Senate.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 1009 through and including 1026 and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE ARMY

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

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Gustave F. Perna

IN THE NAVY

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

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Kathleen M. Creighton

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

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Todd J. Squire

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

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Brian B. Brown
Rear Adm. (lh) Sean R. Filipowski
Rear Adm. (lh) Brett C. Heimbigner

IN THE AIR FORCE

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

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Steven L. Kwast

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

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy

IN THE ARMY

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

To be brigadier general

Col. Scott G. Perry

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Joseph J. Heck

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

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Mark S. Inch

IN THE NAVY

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

To be admiral

Vice Adm. Philip S. Davidson

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

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Dixon R. Smith

IN THE AIR FORCE

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

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Tod D. Wolters

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

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Veralinn Jamieson

IN THE ARMY

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

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. John W. Nicholson, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Paul M. Benenati

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

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Michael A. Calhoun

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

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Bret D. Daugherty

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

To be brigadier general

Colonel Raul E. Escribano
Colonel Timothy J. McAteer
Colonel Jeffrey L. Milhorn

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1950 AIR FORCE nomination of Lisa L. Adams, which as received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1951 AIR FORCE nomination of Richard D. Mink, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1953 AIR FORCE nominations (11) beginning DAVID L. ALLISON, and ending KWANI D. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

IN THE ARMY

PN1604 ARMY nominations (417) beginning STEPHEN R. ABRAMS, and ending G010257, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1605 ARMY nominations (420) beginning ISAIAH C. ABBOTT, and ending D012187, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1606 ARMY nominations (862) beginning JASON K. ABBOTT, and ending D012084, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1954 ARMY nomination of Claudia D. Henderson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1955 ARMY nominations (265) beginning JESSE ABREU, and ending D011533, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1956 ARMY nomination of Sun S. Macupa, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1957 ARMY nominations (450) beginning BRIAN S. ADAMS, and ending G010266, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1958 ARMY nominations (280) beginning CLARK C.K. ADAMS, II, and ending G010269, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN2009 ARMY nominations (3) beginning HERBERT J. BROCK, IV, and ending GREGORY S. PHIPPS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2014.

PN2010 ARMY nominations (125) beginning SYED AHMED, and ending AMY ZINGALIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2014.

PN2011 ARMY nominations (26) beginning BRADLEY AEBI, and ending KEVYN WETZEL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appear in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2014.

IN THE NAVY

PN1959 NAVY nomination of Edward J. Eder which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1960 NAVY nomination of William A. Burns, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1961 NAVY nomination of Kevin L. Bell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1962 NAVY nomination of Clayton M. Pendergrass, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1963 NAVY nominations (2) beginning CASEY D. FERGUSON, and ending ANTHONY K. TOBIAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1964 NAVY nominations (71) beginning CRYSTAL R. AANDAHL, and ending LINA M. YECPOT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1965 NAVY nominations (73) beginning CYNTHIA N. ABELLA, and ending YU ZHENG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1966 NAVY nominations (34) beginning CHRISTOPHER A. ADAMS, and ending MARLIN WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1967 NAVY nominations (35) beginning JESSE D. ADAMS, and ending NICHOLAS B. STAMPFLI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1968 NAVY nominations (30) beginning JON A. ANGLE, and ending KHALID J. WOODS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1969 NAVY nominations (67) beginning TODD A. ANDERSON, and ending SHEVONNE K. WELLS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1970 NAVY nominations (73) beginning AUSTIN G. ALDRIDGE, and ending NATHAN T. WOODWARD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1971 NAVY nominations (182) beginning ALWIN L. ALBERT, and ending JACK M. ZUCKERMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN2012 NAVY nomination of Gregory E. Oxford, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2014.

PN2013 NAVY nomination of Benjamin I. Abney, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2014.

PN2014 NAVY nomination of Joel N. Peterson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in Congressional Record of September 8, 2014.

PN2015 NAVY nominations (8) beginning GREGORY C. CATHCART, and ending MICHAEL D. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2014.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that following the vote on H.J. Res. 124, the Senate consider Executive Calendar Nos. 893, 524, 959, 702, 1002, 997, 708, 996, and PN 1917; that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that any rollcall votes following the first in the series be 10 minutes in length; that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

DHS OIG MANDATES REVISION ACT OF 2014

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 567, S. 2651.

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

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2651) to repeal certain mandates of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General.

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

S. 2651

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''DHS OIG Mandates Revision Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT AN ANNUAL EVALUATION OF THE CARGO INSPECTION TARGETING SYSTEM.—

(1) REPEAL.—Subsections (g) and (h) of section 809 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–293; 46 U.S.C. 70101 note) are repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 809 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–293; 118 Stat. 1085), as amended by paragraph (1), is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''and (j)'' and inserting ''and (h)''; and

(B) by redesignating subsections (i), (j), and (k) as subsections (g), (h), and (i), respectively.

(b) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT AN ANNUAL REVIEW OF COAST GUARD PERFORMANCE.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 888(f) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468(f)) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 888 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468), as amended by paragraph (1), is amended by redesignating subsections (g), (h), and (i) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively.

(c) ANNUAL REVIEW OF GRANTS TO STATES AND HIGH-RISK URBAN AREAS.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 2022(a)(3) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 612(a)(3)) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2022(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 612(a)), as amended by paragraph (1), is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (3), (4), (5), and (6), respectively;

(B) in paragraph (4), as redesignated—

(i) by striking ''paragraphs (2) and (3)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2)''; and

(ii) by striking ''paragraph (4)'' and inserting ''paragraph (3)''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on January 1, 2015.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

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

The bill (S. 2651), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SUNSCREEN INNOVATION ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 568, S. 2141.

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

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2141) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients, and for other purposes.

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

S. 2141

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Sunscreen Innovation Act''.

SEC. 2. REGULATION OF NONPRESCRIPTION SUNSCREEN ACTIVE INGREDIENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 351 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"Subchapter I—Nonprescription Sunscreen and Other Active Ingredients

"SEC. 586. DEFINITIONS.

''In this subchapter—

''(1) the term 'Advisory Committee' means the Nonprescription Drug Advisory Committee of the Food and Drug Administration or any successor to such Committee;

''(2) the term 'final sunscreen order' means an order published by the Secretary in the Federal Register containing information stating that a

nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients—

''(A) is GRASE and is not misbranded if marketed in accordance with such order; or

''(B) is not GRASE and is misbranded;

''(3) the term 'GRASE' means generally recognized, among experts qualified by scientific training and experience to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of drugs, as safe and effective for use under the conditions prescribed, recommended, or suggested in the labeling of a drug as described in section 201(p);

''(4) the term 'GRASE determination' means, with respect to a nonprescription active ingredient or a combination of nonprescription active ingredients, a determination of whether such ingredient or combination of ingredients is GRASE;

''(5) the term 'nonprescription' means not subject to section 503(b)(1);

''(6) the term 'pending request' means each request with respect to a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient submitted under section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act) for consideration for inclusion in the over-the-counter drug monograph system—

''(A) that was determined to be eligible for such review by publication of a notice of eligibility in the Federal Register prior to the date of enactment of such Act; and

''(B) for which safety and effectiveness data have been submitted to the Secretary prior to such date of enactment;

''(7) the term 'proposed sunscreen order' means an order containing a tentative determination published by the Secretary in the Federal Register containing information proposing that a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients—

''(A) is GRASE and is not misbranded if marketed in accordance with such order;

''(B) is not GRASE and is misbranded; or

''(C) is not GRASE and is misbranded because the data are insufficient to classify such ingredient or combination of ingredients as GRASE and not misbranded and additional information is necessary to allow the Secretary to determine otherwise;

''(8) the term 'sponsor' means the person that submitted—

''(A) a request under section 586A;

''(B) a pending request; or

''(C) any other application subject to this subchapter;

''(9) the term 'sunscreen' means a drug containing one or more sunscreen active ingredients; and

''(10) the term 'sunscreen active ingredient' means an active ingredient that is intended for application to the skin of humans for purposes of absorbing, reflecting, or scattering ultraviolet radiation.

"SEC. 586A. SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS.

''Any person may submit a request to the Secretary for a determination of whether a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or a combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients, for use under specified conditions, to be prescribed, recommended, or suggested in the labeling thereof (including dosage form, dosage strength, and route of administration) is GRASE and should be included in part 352 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations) concerning nonprescription sunscreen.

"SEC. 586B. ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS; DATA SUBMISSION; FILING.

''(a) ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 calendar days after the date of receipt of a request under section 586A, the Secretary shall—

''(A) determine, in accordance with paragraph (2), whether the request is eligible for further review under subsection (b) and section 586C;

''(B) notify the sponsor of the determination of the Secretary; and

''(C) make such determination publicly available in accordance with paragraph (3) and subsection (b)(1).

''(2) CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for review under subsection (b) and section 586C, a request shall be for a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients, for use under specified conditions, to be prescribed, recommended, or suggested in the labeling thereof, that—

''(i) is not included in part 352 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations) concerning nonprescription sunscreen; and

''(ii) has been used to a material extent and for a material time under such conditions, as described in section 201(p)(2).

''(B) ESTABLISHMENT OF TIME AND EXTENT.—A sponsor shall include in a request under section 586A the information required under section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations) to meet the standard described in subparagraph (A)(ii).

''(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

''(A) REDACTIONS FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—If a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is determined under paragraph (1)(A) to be eligible for further review, the Secretary shall make the request publicly available, with redactions for information that is treated as confidential under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code, section 1905 of title 18, United States Code, or section 301(j) of this Act.

''(B) IDENTIFICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION BY SPONSOR.—At the time that a request is made under section 586A, the sponsor of such request shall identify any information that such sponsor considers to be confidential information described in subparagraph (A).

''(C) CONFIDENTIALITY DURING ELIGIBILITY REVIEW.—The information contained in a request under section 586A shall remain confidential during the Secretary's consideration under this section of whether the request is eligible for further review consistent with section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

''(b) DATA SUBMISSION AND FILING OF REQUESTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a request under section 586A that is determined to be eligible under subsection (a) for further review under this section and section 586C, the Secretary shall, in notifying the public under subsection (a)(1)(C) of such eligibility determination, post the eligibility determination on the Internet website of the Food and Drug Administration, invite the sponsor of such request and any other interested party to submit comments, and provide a period of not less than 45 calendar days for comments in support of or otherwise relating to a GRASE determination, including published and unpublished data and other information related to the safety and efficacy of such request.

''(2) FILING DETERMINATION.—Not later than 60 calendar days after the submission of data and other information described in paragraph (1) by the sponsor, the Secretary shall determine whether the data and other information submitted by the sponsor under this section are sufficiently complete, including being formatted in a manner that enables the Secretary to determine the completeness of such data and information, to enable the Secretary to conduct a substantive review under section 586C with respect to such request. Not later than 60 calendar days after the submission of data and other information described in paragraph (1) by the sponsor, if the Secretary determines—

''(A) that such data and other information are sufficiently complete, the Secretary shall—

''(i) issue a written notification to the sponsor of the determination to file such request, and make such notification publicly available; and

''(ii) file such request made under section 586A; or

''(B) that such data and other information are not sufficiently complete, the Secretary shall issue a written notification to the sponsor of the determination to refuse to file the request, which shall include the reasons for the refusal, including why such data and other information are not sufficiently complete, and make such notification publicly available.

''(3) REFUSAL TO FILE A REQUEST.—

''(A) REQUEST FOR MEETINGS; SUBMISSION OF ADDITIONAL DATA OR OTHER INFORMATION.—If the Secretary refuses to file a request made under section 586A, the sponsor may—

''(i) within 30 calendar days of receipt of written notification of such refusal, request, in writing, a meeting with the Secretary regarding the filing determination; and

''(ii) submit additional data or other information.

''(B) MEETINGS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If a sponsor seeks a meeting under subparagraph (A)(i), the Secretary shall convene the meeting within 30 calendar days of the request for such meeting.

''(ii) ACTIONS AFTER MEETING.—Following any meeting held under clause (i)—

''(I) the Secretary may file the request within 60 calendar days;

''(II) the sponsor may submit additional data or other information; or

''(III) if the sponsor elects, within 120 calendar days, to have the Secretary file the request (with or without amendments to correct any purported deficiencies to the request)—

''(aa) the Secretary shall file the request over protest, not later than 30 calendar days after the sponsor makes such election;

''(bb) at the time of filing, the Secretary shall provide written notification of such filing to the sponsor; and

''(cc) the Secretary shall make such notification publicly available.

''(iii) REQUESTS FILED OVER PROTEST.—The Secretary shall not require the sponsor to resubmit a copy of the request for purposes of filing a request filed over protest, as described in clause (ii)(III).

''(C) SUBMISSIONS OF ADDITIONAL DATA OR OTHER INFORMATION.—Within 60 calendar days of any submission of additional data or other information under subparagraph (A)(ii) or (B)(ii)(II), the Secretary shall reconsider the previous determination made under paragraph (2) with respect to the applicable request and make a new determination in accordance with paragraph (2).

''(4) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

''(A) REDACTIONS FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—After the period of confidentiality described in subsection (a)(3)(C), the Secretary shall make data and other information submitted in connection with a request under section 586A publicly available, with redactions for information that is treated as confidential under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code, section 1905 of title 18, United States Code, or section 301(j) of this Act.

''(B) IDENTIFICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION BY SPONSOR.—A person submitting information under this section shall identify at the time of such submission the portions of such information that the person considers to be confidential information described in subparagraph (A).

"SEC. 586C. GRASE DETERMINATION.

''(a) REVIEW OF NEW REQUEST.—

''(1) PROPOSED SUNSCREEN ORDER.—In the case of a request under section 586A, not later than 300 calendar days after the date on which such request is filed under subsection (b)(2)(A) or (b)(3)(B)(ii)(III) of section 586B, the Secretary—

''(A) may convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee to review such request; and

''(B) shall complete the review of such request and issue a proposed sunscreen order with respect to such request.

''(2) PROPOSED SUNSCREEN ORDER BY COMMISSIONER.—If the Secretary does not issue a proposed sunscreen order under paragraph (1)(B) within such 300-day period, the sponsor of such request may notify the Office of the Commissioner of such request and request review by the Office of the Commissioner. If such sponsor so notifies the Office of the Commissioner, the Commissioner shall, not later than 60 calendar days after the date of notification under this paragraph, issue a proposed sunscreen order with respect to such request.

''(3) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.—A proposed sunscreen order issued under paragraph (1)(B) or (2) with respect to a request shall provide for a period of 45 calendar days for public comment.

''(4) MEETING.—A sponsor may request, in writing, a meeting with respect to a proposed sunscreen order issued under this subsection and described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 586(7), not later than 30 calendar days after the Secretary issues such order. The Secretary shall convene a meeting with such sponsor not later than 45 calendar days after such request for a meeting.

''(5) FINAL SUNSCREEN ORDER.—With respect to a proposed sunscreen order under paragraph (1)(B) or (2)—

''(A) the Secretary shall issue a final sunscreen order—

''(i) in the case of a proposed sunscreen order described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 586(7), not later than 90 calendar days after the end of the public comment period under paragraph (3); or

''(ii) in the case of a proposed sunscreen order described in subparagraph (C) of section 586(7), not later than 210 calendar days after the date on which the sponsor submits the additional information requested pursuant to such proposed sunscreen order; or

''(B) if the Secretary does not issue such final sunscreen order within such 90- or 210-calendar-day period, as applicable, the sponsor of such request may notify the Office of the Commissioner of such request and request review by the Office of the Commissioner.

''(6) FINAL SUNSCREEN ORDER BY COMMISSIONER.—The Commissioner shall issue a final sunscreen order with respect to a proposed sunscreen order subject to paragraph (5)(B) not later than 60 calendar days after the date of notification under such paragraph.

''(b) REVIEW OF PENDING REQUESTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The review of a pending request shall be carried out by the Secretary in accordance with this subsection.

''(2) INAPPLICABILITY OF SECTIONS 586A AND 586B.—Sections 586A and 586B shall not apply with respect to any pending request.

''(3) FEEDBACK LETTERS AS PROPOSED SUNSCREEN ORDER.—Notwithstanding the requirements of section 586(7), a letter issued pursuant to section 330.14(g) of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations before the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, with respect to a pending request, shall be deemed to be a proposed sunscreen order and displayed on the Internet website of the Food and Drug Administration. Notification of the availability of such letter shall be published in the Federal Register not later than 45 calendar days after the date of enactment of such Act.

''(4) PROPOSED SUNSCREEN ORDER.—In the case of a pending request for which the Secretary has not issued a letter pursuant to section 330.14(g) of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations before the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, the Secretary shall complete review of such request and, not later than 90 calendar days after the date of enactment of such Act, issue a proposed sunscreen order with respect to such request.

''(5) PROPOSED SUNSCREEN ORDER BY COMMISSIONER.—If the Secretary does not issue a proposed sunscreen order under paragraph (4), or the Secretary does not publish a notification of the availability of a letter under paragraph (3), as applicable, the sponsor of such request may notify the Office of the Commissioner of such request and request review by the Office of the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall, not later than 60 calendar days after the date of notification under this paragraph, issue a proposed order with respect to such request.

''(6) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.—A proposed sunscreen order issued under paragraph (4) or (5), or a notification of the availability of a letter under paragraph (3), with respect to a pending request shall provide for a period of 45 calendar days for public comment.

''(7) MEETING.—A sponsor may request, in writing, a meeting with respect to a proposed sunscreen order issued under this subsection, including a letter deemed to be a proposed sunscreen order under paragraph (3), not later than 30 calendar days after the Secretary issues such order or the date upon which such feedback letter is deemed to be a proposed sunscreen order, as applicable. The Secretary shall convene a meeting with such sponsor not later than 45 calendar days after the date of such request for a meeting.

''(8) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—In the case of a proposed sunscreen order under paragraph (3), (4), or (5), an Advisory Committee meeting may be convened for the purpose of reviewing and providing recommendations regarding the pending request.

''(9) FINAL SUNSCREEN ORDER.—In the case of a proposed sunscreen order under paragraph (3), (4), or (5)—

''(A) the Secretary shall issue a final sunscreen order with respect to the request—

''(i) in the case of a proposed sunscreen order described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 586(7), not later than 90 calendar days after the end of the public comment period under paragraph (6); or

''(ii) in the case of a proposed sunscreen order described in subparagraph (C) of section 586(7)—

''(I) if the Advisory Committee is not convened under paragraph (8), not later than 210 calendar days after the date on which the sponsor submits the additional information requested pursuant to such proposed sunscreen order, which shall include a rationale for not convening such Advisory Committee; or

''(II) if the Advisory Committee is convened under paragraph (8), not later than 270 calendar days after the date on which the sponsor submits such additional information; or

''(B) if the Secretary does not issue such final sunscreen order within such 90-, 210-, or 270-calendar-day period, as applicable, the sponsor of such request may notify the Office of the Commissioner about such request and request review by the Office of the Commissioner.

''(10) FINAL SUNSCREEN ORDER BY COMMISSIONER.—The Commissioner shall issue a final sunscreen order with respect to a proposed sunscreen order subject to paragraph (9)(B) not later than 60 calendar days after the date of notification under such paragraph.

''(c) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Secretary shall not be required to—

''(1) convene the Advisory Committee—

''(A) more than once with respect to any request under section 586A or any pending request; or

''(B) more than twice in any calendar year with respect to the review under this section; or

''(2) submit more than a total of 3 requests under section 586A or pending requests to the Advisory Committee per meeting.

''(d) NO DELEGATION.—Any responsibility vested in the Commissioner by subsection (a)(2), (a)(6), (b)(5), or (b)(10) shall not be delegated.

''(e) EFFECT OF FINAL SUNSCREEN ORDER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) SUNSCREEN ACTIVE INGREDIENTS DETERMINED TO BE GRASE.—Upon issuance of a final sunscreen order determining that a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is GRASE and is not misbranded, a sunscreen containing such ingredient or combination of ingredients shall be permitted to be introduced or delivered into interstate commerce for use under the conditions described in such final sunscreen order, in accordance with all requirements applicable to drugs not subject to section 503(b)(1), for so long as such final sunscreen order remains in effect.

''(B) SUNSCREEN ACTIVE INGREDIENTS DETERMINED NOT TO BE GRASE.—Upon issuance of a final sunscreen order determining that a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is not GRASE and is misbranded, a sunscreen containing such ingredient or combination of ingredients shall not be introduced or delivered into interstate commerce, for use under the conditions described in such final sunscreen order, unless an application is approved pursuant to section 505 with respect to a sunscreen containing such ingredient or combination of ingredients, or unless conditions are later established under which such ingredient or combination of ingredients is later determined to be GRASE and not misbranded under the over-the-counter drug monograph system.

''(2) AMENDMENTS TO FINAL SUNSCREEN ORDERS.—

''(A) AMENDMENTS AT INITIATIVE OF SECRETARY.—In the event that information relevant to a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients becomes available to the Secretary after issuance of a final sunscreen order, the Secretary may amend such final sunscreen order by issuing a new proposed sunscreen order under subsection (a)(1) and following the procedures set forth in this section.

''(B) PETITION TO AMEND FINAL ORDER.—Any interested person may petition the Secretary to amend a final sunscreen order under section 10.30, title 21 Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations). If the Secretary grants any petition under such section, the Secretary shall initiate the process for amending a final sunscreen order by issuing a new proposed sunscreen order under subsection (a)(1) and following the procedures set forth in this section.

''(C) APPLICABILITY OF FINAL ORDERS.—Once the Secretary issues a new proposed sunscreen order to amend a final sunscreen order under subparagraph (A) or (B), such final sunscreen order shall remain in effect and paragraph (3) shall not apply to such final sunscreen order until the Secretary has issued a new final sunscreen order or has determined not to amend the final sunscreen order.

''(3) INCLUSION OF INGREDIENTS THAT ARE SUBJECTS OF FINAL ORDERS IN THE SUNSCREEN MONOGRAPH.—

''(A) AMENDING REGULATIONS.—

''(i) REQUIREMENT.—At any time that the Secretary proposes to amend part 352 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations) concerning nonprescription sunscreen, including pursuant to section 586E, except as provided in clause (iv), the Secretary shall include in such part 352 (or any successor regulations) any nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients that is the subject of an effective final sunscreen order of the type described in section 586(2)(A) and issued since the time that the Secretary last amended such regulations. Such regulation shall set forth conditions of use under which each such ingredient or combination of ingredients is GRASE and not misbranded. If these conditions differ from, or are in addition to, those previously set forth in the applicable final sunscreen order, the Secretary shall provide notice and opportunity for comment on such conditions in the

rulemaking, and the applicable final sunscreen order shall continue in effect until the effective date of a final regulation, as set forth in clause (iii).

''(ii) INCLUSION OF ORDERS.—In proposing to amend the regulations as described in clause (i), the Secretary shall include in the proposed regulations a list of final sunscreen orders that shall cease to be effective on the effective date of a resulting final regulation. Such list shall include all final sunscreen orders of the type described in section 586(2)(A) that are in effect on the date that such regulations are proposed, with the exception that such list shall not include any final sunscreen orders that, on the date that the regulations are proposed, the Secretary is in the process of amending under paragraph (2).

''(iii) ORDERS NO LONGER EFFECTIVE.—Any final sunscreen order included by the Secretary in a list described in clause (ii) and in a list included in resulting final regulations shall cease to be effective on the date that such final regulations including such order in such list become effective.

''(iv) INGREDIENTS NOT GRASE.—If, notwithstanding a final sunscreen order stating that a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is GRASE and is not misbranded if marketed in accordance with such order, while amending the regulations as described in clause (i), the Secretary concludes that such ingredient or combination of ingredients is no longer GRASE for use in nonprescription sunscreen, the Secretary shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, either initiate the process for amending the final sunscreen order set forth in paragraph (2) of this subsection or include in a proposed regulation an explanation and information supporting the determination of the Secretary that such ingredient or combination of ingredients is no longer GRASE for use in nonprescription sunscreen.

''(B) PROCEDURE FOR UPDATING REGULATIONS.—After the Secretary amends and finalizes the regulations under part 352 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations under section 586E and such regulations become effective, the Secretary may use direct final rulemaking to include in such regulations any nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients that are the subject of effective final sunscreen orders.

"SEC. 586D. GUIDANCE; OTHER PROVISIONS.

''(a) GUIDANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) DRAFT GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, the Secretary shall issue draft guidance on the implementation of, and compliance with, the requirements with respect to sunscreen under this subchapter, including guidance on—

''(i) the format and content of information submitted by a sponsor in support of a request under section 586A or a pending request;

''(ii) the data required to meet the safety and efficacy standard for determining whether a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is GRASE and is not misbranded;

''(iii) the process by which a request under section 586A or a pending request is withdrawn; and

''(iv) the process by which the Secretary will carry out section 586C(c), including with respect to how the Secretary will address the total number of requests received under section 586A and pending requests.

''(B) FINAL GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall finalize the guidance described in subparagraph (A) not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act.

''(C) INAPPLICABILITY OF PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code shall not apply to collections of information made for purposes of guidance under this subsection.

''(2) SUBMISSIONS PENDING ISSUANCE OF FINAL GUIDANCE.—Irrespective of whether final guidance under paragraph (1) has been issued—

''(A) persons may, beginning on the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, make submissions under this subchapter; and

''(B) the Secretary shall review and act upon such submissions in accordance with this subchapter.

''(b) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

''(1) CURRENTLY MARKETED SUNSCREENS.—Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to affect the marketing of sunscreens that are marketed in interstate commerce on or before the date of enactment of this subchapter, except as otherwise provided in this subchapter.

''(2) ENSURING SAFETY AND EFFECTIVENESS.—Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to alter the authority of the Secretary with respect to prohibiting the marketing of a sunscreen that is not safe and effective or is misbranded, or with respect to imposing restrictions on the marketing of a sunscreen to ensure safety and effectiveness, except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, including section 586C(e).

''(3) OTHER DRUGS.—Except as otherwise provided in section 586F, nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to affect the authority of the Secretary under this Act or the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) with respect to a drug other than a nonprescription sunscreen.

''(4) EFFECT ON DRUGS OTHERWISE APPROVED.—Nothing in this subchapter shall affect the marketing of a drug approved under section 505 of this Act or section 351 of the Public Health Service Act.

''(c) TIMELINES.—The timelines for the processes and procedures under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (6) of section 586C(a) shall not apply to any requests submitted to the Secretary under section 586A after the date that is 6 years after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act.

"SEC. 586E. SUNSCREEN MONOGRAPH.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, the Secretary shall amend and finalize regulations under part 352 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations concerning nonprescription sunscreen that are effective not later than 5 years after such date of enactment. The Secretary shall publish such regulations not less than 30 calendar days before the effective date of such regulations.

''(b) REPORTS.—If the regulations promulgated under subsection (a) do not include provisions related to the effectiveness of various sun protection factor levels, and do not address all dosage forms known to the Secretary to be used in sunscreens marketed in the United States without a new drug approval under section 505, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives on the rationale for such provisions not being included in such regulations, and a plan and timeline to compile any information necessary to address such provisions through final regulations.''.

(b) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amendment made by this section shall be construed to—

(1) limit the right of a sponsor (as defined in section 586(8) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as added by subsection (a)) to request that the Secretary of Health and Human Services convene an advisory committee; or

(2) limit the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to meet with a sponsor (as defined in section 586(8) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as added by subsection (a)).

SEC. 3. NON-SUNSCREEN TIME AND EXTENT APPLICATIONS.

Subchapter I of chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as added by section 2, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 586F. NON-SUNSCREEN TIME AND EXTENT APPLICATIONS.

''(a) PENDING TIME AND EXTENT APPLICATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) REQUEST FOR FRAMEWORK FOR REVIEW.—If, prior to the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, an application was submitted pursuant to section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations for a GRASE determination for a drug other than a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and such drug was found to be eligible to be considered for inclusion in the over-the-counter drug monograph system pursuant to section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, the sponsor of such application may request that the Secretary provide a framework under paragraph (2) for the review of such application.

''(B) REQUEST REQUIREMENTS.—A request for a framework for review of an application made under subparagraph (A) shall be made within 180 calendar days of the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act and shall include the preference of such sponsor as to whether such application is reviewed by the Secretary in accordance with—

''(i) the processes and procedures set forth for pending requests under section 586C(b), except that specific timelines shall be determined in accordance with other applicable requirements under this section;

''(ii) the processes and procedures set forth under part 330 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations);

''(iii) an initial filing determination under the processes and procedures described in section 586B(b) and the processes and procedures set forth for pending requests under section 586C(b), except that specific timelines shall be determined in accordance with other applicable requirements under this section; or

''(iv) an initial filing determination under the processes and procedures described in section 586B(b) and the processes and procedures set forth under part 330 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

''(C) NO REQUEST.—If a sponsor described in subparagraph (A) does not make such request within 180 calendar days of the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, such application shall be reviewed by the Secretary in accordance with the timelines of the applicable regulations when such regulations are finalized under subsection (b).

''(2) FRAMEWORK.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, the Secretary shall provide, in writing, a framework to each sponsor that submitted a request under paragraph (1). Such framework shall set forth the various timelines, in calendar days, with respect to the processes and procedures for review under clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv) of paragraph (1)(B) and—

''(A) such timelines shall account for the considerations under paragraph (5); and

''(B) the timelines for the various processes and procedures shall not be shorter than the timelines set forth for pending requests under sections 586B(b) and 586C(b), as applicable.

''(3) GOVERNING PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES FOR REVIEW.—

''(A) ELECTION.—Not later than 60 calendar days after the Secretary provides a framework to a sponsor under paragraph (2), such sponsor may provide an election to the Secretary regarding the processes and procedures for review under clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of paragraph (1)(B). If such sponsor makes such election, the Secretary shall review the application that is the subject of such election pursuant to the processes and procedures elected by such sponsor and the applicable timelines in calendar days set forth under such framework, which the

Secretary shall confirm in writing to the sponsor not later than the date upon which the Secretary provides a report under paragraph (4). If such sponsor does not make such election, such application shall be reviewed by the Secretary in accordance with the timelines of the applicable regulations when such regulations are finalized under subsection (b).

''(B) DIFFERENT PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES.—At any time during review of an application, the Secretary may review such application under different processes and procedures under clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of paragraph (1)(B) than the processes and procedures the sponsor elected in accordance with subparagraph (A), so long as the Secretary proposes, in writing, the change and the sponsor agrees, in writing, to such change.

''(C) INCLUSION OF INGREDIENTS IN MONOGRAPHS.—If the sponsor elects to use the processes and procedures for review in accordance with clause (i) or (iii) of paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary may incorporate any resulting final order into a regulation addressing the conditions under which other drugs in the same therapeutic category are GRASE and not misbranded, including through direct final rulemaking, and the final order so incorporated shall cease to be effective on the effective date of the final regulation that addresses such drug.

''(4) LETTER REGARDING PENDING APPLICATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, the Secretary shall report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, in writing, regarding all pending applications subject to paragraph (1). In such letter, the Secretary shall provide a report on the review of such applications, including the timelines, in calendar days, for the review and GRASE determination for each application. Such timelines shall account for the considerations under paragraph (5).

''(5) TIMELINES.—The timelines in calendar days established by the Secretary pursuant to this subsection—

''(A) may vary based on the content, complexity, and format of the application submitted to the Secretary; and

''(B) shall—

''(i) reflect the public health priorities of the Food and Drug Administration, including the potential public health benefits posed by the inclusion of additional drugs in the over-the-counter drug monograph system;

''(ii) take into consideration the resources available to the Secretary for carrying out such priorities and the processes and procedures described in paragraphs (1)(B) and (2); and

''(iii) be reasonable, taking into consideration the requirements described in clauses (i) and (ii).

''(b) NEW TIME AND EXTENT APPLICATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, the Secretary shall issue proposed regulations establishing timelines for the review of applications for GRASE determinations for drugs other than nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients or combinations of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients that are submitted to the Secretary after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, under section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), and that are found to be eligible to be considered for inclusion in the over-the-counter drug monograph system pursuant to section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), or that are subject to this subsection pursuant to paragraph (1) or (3) of subsection (a), as applicable, providing—

''(A) timely and efficient completion of evaluations of applications under section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations) for drugs other than sunscreens; and

''(B) timely and efficient completion of the review of the safety and effectiveness submissions pursuant to such applications, including establishing—

''(i) reasonable timelines, in calendar days, for the applicable proposed and final regulations for applications of various content, complexity, and format, and timelines for internal procedures related to such processes; and

''(ii) measurable metrics for tracking the extent to which the timelines set forth in the regulations are met.

''(2) TIMELINES.—The timelines in calendar days established in the regulations under paragraph (1)—

''(A) may vary based on the content, complexity, and format of the application submitted to the Secretary; and

''(B) shall—

''(i) reflect the public health priorities of the Food and Drug Administration, including the potential public health benefits posed by the inclusion of additional drugs in the over-the-counter drug monograph system;

''(ii) take into consideration the resources available to the Secretary for carrying out such priorities and the processes and procedures described in paragraph (1); and

''(iii) be reasonable, taking into consideration the requirements described in clauses (i) and (ii).

''(3) PROCEDURE.—In promulgating regulations under this subsection, the Secretary shall issue a notice of proposed rulemaking that includes a copy of the proposed regulation, provide a period of not less than 60 calendar days for comments on the proposed regulation, and publish the final regulation not less than 30 calendar days before the effective date of the regulation.

''(4) RESTRICTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations implementing this section only as described in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

''(5) FINAL REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall finalize the regulations under this section not later than 27 months after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act.''.

SEC. 4. REPORTS.

(a) INITIAL GAO REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report reviewing the overall progress of the Secretary of Health and Human Services in carrying out subchapter I of chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (as added by section 2 and amended by section 3 and subsection (c)), including findings on and recommendations with respect to—

(1) the progress made in completing the review of requests under subchapter I of chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, including pending requests, and the feasibility of the timelines associated with such subchapter;

(2) the role of the Office of the Commissioner of Food and Drugs in issuing determinations with respect to requests reviewed under such subchapter, including the number of requests transferred to the Office of the Commissioner under section 586C of such Act;

(3) the extent to which advisory committees were convened by the Secretary regarding requests under subchapter I of chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, including pending requests; and

(4) the types of metrics that have been, or should be, established for the review of time and extent applications.

(b) SUBSEQUENT GAO REPORT.—Not later than 5½ years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report reviewing the overall progress of the Secretary of Health and Human Services in carrying out subchapter I of chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (as added by section 2 and amended by section 3 and subsection (c)) and the regulation of over-the-counter drug products, including findings on and recommendations with respect to—

(1) updates on the matters reported on by the Comptroller General under subsection (a);

(2) significant factors impacting the ability of the Food and Drug Administration to fulfill the mission of the agency with regard to the regulation of over-the-counter drug products, including finalizing outstanding monographs and responding to emerging and novel safety issues;

(3) the performance of the Secretary in carrying out section 586E of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act;

(4) the types of metrics that have been, or should be, established for the review and regulation of over-the-counter drug products; and

(5) timeliness, efficiency, and accountability in reviewing time and extent applications and safety and effectiveness reviews for over-the-counter drug products.

(c) FDA REPORT.—Subchapter I of chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as amended by section 3, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 586G. REPORT.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, and on the dates that are 2 and 4 years thereafter, the Secretary shall issue a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives describing actions taken under this subchapter.

''(2) CONTENTS.—The reports under this subsection shall include—

''(A) a review of the progress made in issuing GRASE determinations for pending requests, including the number of pending requests—

''(i) reviewed and the decision times for each request, measured from the date of the original request for an eligibility determination submitted by the sponsor;

''(ii) resulting in a determination that the nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is GRASE and is not misbranded;

''(iii) resulting in a determination that the nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is not GRASE and is misbranded and the reasons for such determinations; and

''(iv) for which a determination has not been made, and an explanation for the delay, a description of the current status of each such request, and the length of time each such request has been pending, measured from the date of original request for an eligibility determination by the sponsor;

''(B) a review of the progress made in issuing GRASE determinations for requests not included in the reporting under subparagraph (A), including the number of such requests—

''(i) reviewed and the decision times for each request;

''(ii) resulting in a determination that the nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient, combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients, or other ingredient is GRASE and is not misbranded;

''(iii) resulting in a determination that the nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient, combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients, or other ingredient is not GRASE and is misbranded and the reasons for such determinations; and

''(iv) for which a determination has not been made, and an explanation for the delay, a description of the current status of each such request, and the length of time each such request

has been pending, measured from the date of original request for an eligibility determination by the sponsor;

''(C) an annual accounting (including information from years prior to the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act where such information is available) of the total number of requests submitted, pending, or completed under this subchapter, including whether such requests were the subject of an advisory committee convened by the Secretary;

''(D) a description of the staffing and resources relating to the costs associated with the review and decisionmaking pertaining to requests under this subchapter;

''(E) a review of the progress made in meeting the deadlines with respect to processing requests under this subchapter; and

''(F) to the extent the Secretary determines appropriate, recommendations for process improvements in the handling of requests under this subchapter, including the advisory committee review process.

''(b) METHOD.—The Secretary shall publish the reports under subsection (a) in the manner the Secretary determines to be the most effective for efficiently disseminating the report, including publication of the report on the Internet website of the Food and Drug Administration.''.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

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

The bill (S. 2141), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MAKING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO PUBLIC LAW 110–229

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4751.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4751) to make technical corrections to Public Law 110–229 to reflect the renaming of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 4751) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4809.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4809) to reauthorize the Defense Production Act, to improve the Defense Production Act Committee, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 4809) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 545 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 545) recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and the immense contributions of Latinos to the United States.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 545) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 15, 2014, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

NATIONAL BISON DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 543 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 543) designating November 1, 2014, as National Bison Day.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 543) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 11, 2014, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration, en bloc, of the following resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 552; S. Res. 553; S. Res. 554; S. Res. 555; S. Res. 556; S. Res. 557; S. Res. 558; S. Res. 559; and S. Res. 560.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 113–6

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate, signed September 17, 2014, by the President of the United States: Extradition Treaty with the Republic of Chile (Treaty Document No. 113–6).

I further ask that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

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

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, the Extradition Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Chile (the ''Treaty''), signed at Washington on June 5, 2013. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty would replace the outdated extradition treaty between the

United States and Chile, signed at Santiago on April 17, 1900 (the ''1900 Treaty''). The Treaty follows generally the form and content of other extradition treaties recently concluded by the United States. It would replace an outmoded list of extraditable offenses with a modern ''dual criminality'' approach, which would enable extradition for such offenses as money laundering and other newer offenses not appearing on the list from the 1900 Treaty. The Treaty also contains a modernized ''political offense'' clause and provides that extradition shall not be refused based on the nationality of the person sought. Finally, the Treaty incorporates a series of procedural improvements to streamline and speed the extradition process.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to its ratification.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 17, 2014.*

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2014; 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 the prayer and pledge, the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair; that when the Senate reconvenes, following any leader remarks, there be a period of morning business until 1 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, and with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; and finally, at 1 p.m., the Senate proceed to consideration of H.J. Res. 124, the continuing resolution, as provided under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, at 10 a.m. tomorrow, His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, will address a joint meeting of Congress from the Hall of the House of Representatives in the U.S. Capitol. Senators should begin to gather in the Senate Chamber at 9:30 a.m. to depart at 9:40 a.m. for the procession to the Hall of the House.

Senators should expect a series of rollcall votes at approximately 5:30 p.m. tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 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 6:55 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 18, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DEREK P. RYDHOLM

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. LARRY D. WYCHE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. LAWRENCE F. THOMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

PATRICK M. MCGRATH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

PEGGY E. D. MCGILL
ANDY J. PRICE
ELENA M. SCARBROUGH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DELROY A. BROWN
JOSEPH L. COPAS
DAVID W. DOUGLAS
PAUL G. HAINES
STEVEN C. KLASSON
JEROLD T. KOUCHI
RICHARD G. SCHMID

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

BRIAN R. COLEMAN
MARC H. DAHMAN
JOSEPH A. DANGELO
TOMMY C. LEEPER
ROBERT C. MANCINI
SPENCER T. PRICE
DANIEL D. PRIMM, JR.
ROBERT E. RIDOUT
TRACY L. RINGO
DAVID A. STEVENSON
RICK L. STRICKROOT
ROBERT W. THOMPSON, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

VANCE J. ARGO
JOHN E. EHRHART
ALAN J. FEHR
MICHAEL O. HULSEY
ALOMA A. JESS
KEVIN J. KRUSE
JOANNE W. MORRITT
ANTHONY S. RANDALL
STEVEN R. SANSON
PATRICIA A. STEINOCHER
TYRA J. SWANSON
GREGORY W. TEISAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

SCOTT A. ARCAND
STEPHANIE B. BATTEN
WILLIAM M. HARDY
SCOTT J. HOPKINS
GEORGE J. JICHA
JAMES J. KERBY
WILLIAM D. WEAVER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DAWN M. FLYNN
SANDRA J. HETZEL
PAUL V. RAHM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

SCOTT B. BYERS
KIM J. HILLIARD
JOSEPH V. IGNAZZITTO II
LOREN W. KLEMP
JANIE M. MARTIN
KHANH T. PHAM
MICHELE M. SPENCER
CHARLENE A. WEINGARTEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DONNA K. AYERS
STEPHANIE A. BALL
RICHARD B. BARRENTINE
GLORIA J. BEARCE
NANCY M. BECKER
MARY L. BORCHARDT
STEVEN D. DONNAN
MARGARET M. FRITTITTA
PATRICIA A. GOODYEAR
JAMES A. GRAY
RANDALL G. HOEPPNER
ESTHER D. KING
LINDA J. LEPPELL
JACQUELINE D. MARTIN
MARTIN J. MCNALLY
EULALIA J. MONTERO
HELEN A. MORETTI
CATHERINE A. NADAL
LINDA A. REID
MICHELLE A. RICETROTTER
MICHAEL RIVERAQUILES
LYNETTE D. SHORT
ROSE M. SONTOYO
CAROL S. TAYLOR
FELIZA UNGERCAVINS
PATTI J. URBANEC
JANICE A. VANALSTINE
LESLEY A. WATTS
ROY WILMS
MARY E. WOODARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

FELIX J. E. ANDUJAR
EVAN D. BENDER
KEVIN M. BRADY
JOSE M. CHAVEZCACHO
TIMOTHY G. COOK
PETER D. CROSS
PETER G. DEVEAUX
MARTIN A. DOCHERTY
PETER T. EGAN
STANLEY M. FEERO
JAMES M. FITTS
MICHELLE P. FOOTE
GERRY F. FUNK
YVES A. GAUVIN
GREGORY A. HAMON
BRADLEY B. HAWKINS
SHEILA M. HODGSON
ROBERTO HUERTAS
JODEL G. JAMPAYAS
RICHARD L. S. JENNELLE
JOHN A. JOHNSON
DARA A. JOSIAHHOWZE
RONALD E. KRAMER
RAYMOND S. LANCE
MATTHEW J. LINDGREN
JAMES M. MALONE III
SUSAN K. MANTELL
MICHAEL C. MORRIS
SUSAN F. MULERO
JONATHAN P. OLINE
FRANK M. PARKER
PAUL S. PORTER, JR.
NICHOLAS D. POULOS
FREDERICK G. ROBBE III
JAIME R. RONCANCIO
JAMES E. SCHMIDT
KARY J. SCHROYER
SEAN M. SILER
SAHBRENNAH W. SMITH
RICKY A. THOMAS
JERRY L. TOLBERT
THOMAS D. WELLS
TERENCE R. WOODS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

BRYAN D. BROWN
MARY F. CHESNUT
RICHARD T. CHOJNACKI

WILLIE D. DADE
FELICIA D. DELOATCH
TIMOTHY A. DOHERTY
WILLIAM R. ELLIOTT
MICHAEL L. GOLDSBOROUGH
GREGORY B. HOLLAND
DANIEL B. HUBBARD
RALPH R. JUDKINS
GEORGE E. KATSOS
SUKCHAN KIM
VERONICA A. KOUASSI
BRYAN J. LAYTON
JEFFREY B. MCCARTER
NANCY L. MILLER
GUY W. MILLNER, JR.
JOHNNY D. NIEDZWIEDZKI
AMY K. NINNEMAN
LYNNELL D. PEACE
RAVEN E. D. REITSTETTER
JACK E. ROGERS
JANET SANZZIADIE
JERROLD J. SCHARNINGHAUSEN
JAMES G. SHIRLEY
THOMAS J. STOKES
RICHARD C. TOYE
NICHOLAS D. YOUNG
CRAIG A. YUNKER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ANTHONY J. LABADIA
TANYA F. MOORE
NANCY PEKAR
WILLIAM D. THOMPSON III
JOSEPH F. TOMMASINO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MARTA E. ACHA
JACOB A. JOHNSON
DOYLE W. REAVES
RICORD W. TORGERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ZENAIDA M. COFIE
STEVEN J. KEIR
MARCIA L. LEWIS
VU V. MAI
JOHN J. OTTEN
MONICA J. STAFFORD
TODD L. STEWART

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 17, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ERIC T. SCHULTZ, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA.

THOMAS FREDERICK DAUGHTON, OF ARIZONA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DEBRA S. WADA, OF HAWAII, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

BRADFORD RAYMOND HUTHER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

LAURA S. WERTHEIMER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOHN R. BASS, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY.

DAVID PRESSMAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

DAVID PRESSMAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. GUSTAVE F. PERNA

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. KATHLEEN M. CREIGHTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. TODD J. SQUIRE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) BRIAN B. BROWN
REAR ADM. (LH) SEAN R. FILIPOWSKI
REAR ADM. (LH) BRETT C. HEIMBIGNER

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. STEVEN L. KWAST

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. TERRENCE J. O'SHAUGHNESSY

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. SCOTT G. PERRY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. JOSEPH J. HECK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MARK S. INCH

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be admiral

VICE ADM. PHILIP S. DAVIDSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. DIXON R. SMITH

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. TOD D. WOLTERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. VERALINN JAMIESON

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOHN W. NICHOLSON, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. PAUL M. BENENATI

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL A. CALHOUN

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. BRET D. DAUGHERTY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL RAUL E. ESCRIBANO
COLONEL TIMOTHY J. MCATEER
COLONEL JEFFREY L. MILHORN

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF LISA L. ADAMS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF RICHARD D. MINK, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID L. ALLISON AND ENDING WITH KWANI D. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2014.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEPHEN R. ABRAMS AND ENDING WITH G010257, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 10, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ISAIAH C. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH D012187, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 10, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JASON K. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH D012084, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 10, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CLAUDIA D. HENDERSON, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JESSE ABREU AND ENDING WITH D011533, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SUN S. MACUPA, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIAN S. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH G010266, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CLARK C. K. ADAMS II AND ENDING WITH G010269, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH HERBERT J. BROCK IV AND ENDING WITH GREGORY S. PHIPPS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SYED AHMED AND ENDING WITH AMY ZINGALIS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRADLEY AEBI AND ENDING WITH KEVYN WETZEL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2014.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF EDWARD J. EDER, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF WILLIAM A. BURNS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF KEVIN L. BELL, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF CLAYTON M. PENDERGRASS, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CASEY D. FERGUSON AND ENDING WITH ANTHONY K. TOBIAS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CRYSTAL R. AANDAHL AND ENDING WITH LINA M. YECPOT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CYNTHIA N. ABELLA AND ENDING WITH YU ZHENG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER A. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH MARLIN WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JESSE D. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH NICHOLAS B. STAMPFLI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JON A. ANGLE AND ENDING WITH KHALID J. WOODS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TODD A. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH SHEVONNE K. WELLS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AUSTIN G. ALDRIDGE AND ENDING WITH NATHAN T. WOODWARD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALWIN L. ALBERT AND ENDING WITH JACK M. ZUCKERMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATION OF GREGORY E. OXFORD, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF BENJAMIN I. ABNEY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JOEL N. PETERSON, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GREGORY C. CATHCART AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL D. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2014.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO TEXAS PERMIAN BASIN HONOR FLIGHT

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 85 Veterans from West Texas who will be visiting our Washington DC this week, sponsored by the Permian Basin Honor Flight. On behalf of a grateful state and nation, we welcome these heroes to the nation's capital.

The Veterans on this Honor Flight are: Daniel L. Acosta, United States Marine Corps (ret.); Daniel G. Acosta, United States Navy; Clinton H. Adams, United States Navy; Philip H. Altman, United States Coast Guard; Mike A. Barker, United States Army; Jack R. Barnes, United States Navy (ret.); Billy E. Barnhill, United States Navy; Emil F. Beck, United States Army; Harvey L. Benad, United States Marine Corps; Kendall L. Benad, United States Marine Corps; William B. Bowlin, United States Army Air Corps; John Brenner, United States Navy; Donald W. Byrne, United States Air Force (ret.); Miguel B. Calderon, United States Army; Herbert L. Cartwright, United States Army; Nat E. Clardy, United States Marine Corps; James S. Cosper, United States Navy; John E. Crosby, Jr., United States Army Air Corps; Stanley W. Cuba, United States Navy; Robert E. Davis, United States Navy.

Roy F. Draper, United States Army; Tharen H. Elcher, United States Army Air Corps; Michael L. Elcher, United States Air Force; Claude C. Firth, United States Navy; Thomas O. Flournoy, United States Army; Daniel R. Frizzell, United States Navy; Joyce O. Funderburk, United States Army Air Corps; Richard W. Galloway, United States Army; Willard B. Gaston, United States Navy; Francisco A. Gonzales, United States Army; Alfred Guardino, United States Air Force (ret.); Manuel Herrera, United States Army; Trisha K. Hildreth, United States Air Force; Walter P. Hildreth, Jr., United States Army Air Corps; Lawrence E. Hill, United States Army; Theodore W. Hogan, United States Army Air Corps; Thomas C. Hogan, Jr., United States Army; Bobbie J. Jackson, United States Army; Joseph E. Johnson, United States Army.

Clay M. Keaton, United States Marine Corps; James M. Kelley, United States Army Air Corps; Tom B. Lewis, United States Army; D.H. Livingston, United States Navy; Russell A. Livingston, United States Navy; Grady D. Lobley, United States Army Air Corps; Malcolm R. Manns, United States Navy; Leonard C. Martinez, United States Army; Raymond G. Martinez, Jr., United States Army; Forest H. Mathews, United States Army Air Corps; John E. May, United States Army (ret.); Joe W. Meek, United States Navy (ret.); Max O. Meek, United States Navy; Michael V. Meek, United States Navy; Tommy S. Mills, United States Army; Travis J. Mills, United States Air Force; Jerry B. Morgan, United States Army; Ricky W. Odom, United States Air Force; Cecil R. Odom, United States Navy; John D. Oliver, United States Navy.

Douglas R. Peacock, United States Army Air Corps; Leroy W. Pelzel, United States Army; Walter L. Pierce, United States Army Air Corps; Robert R. Pryor, United States Army; David E. Reed, United States Army; Michael E. Rejon, United States Air Force; Joe R. Rickey, United States Air Force (ret.); Curtis C. Rister, United States Air Force; Johnny W. Rister, United States Air Force; Rogelio Robles, United States Army; Heriberto Rubio, United States Army Air Corps; Jonathan H. Ruiz, United States Army; Commodore C. Ryan, United States Navy; Darrell E. Sanders, United States Army; Walter F. Schluter, United States Air Force; James E. Sever, United States Army; Dennis W. Sever, United States Army; Wendell Short, United States Air Force; Vincent T. Sternjacob, United States Army; Steven C. Stone, United States Army.

John P. Stroup, United States Air Force (ret.); Fred J. Stubbs, United States Army; Jack Tarter, United States Air Force; Marion L. Thompson, United States Army; Gilberto R. Torres, United States Army; Herbert O. Walker, United States Army; Joe B. White, United States Navy; Louis C. White, United States Marine Corps; Jobert Williams, United States Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to have the opportunity to meet these brave men and women who exemplify the best of our country. Their sacrifice and commitment to duty to our nation can never be fully repaid, and I hope that when they visit our nation's monuments in Washington DC, the gratitude and respect we have for them will truly be reflected.

Colleagues, please join me in thanking these in thanking these veterans and their families for their exemplary dedication and service to this great nation. I would also like to extend a special thank you to the local communities, all of the volunteers, and Mr. Jack Barnes for their extensive work in organizing this Honor Flight. This trip would not have been possible without all the financial and emotional support of the people who have put in so much hard work and personal time to make sure this trip could be possible.

COMMEMORATING CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, we celebrate Constitution Day—a holiday that falls 227 years after our founding fathers George Washington, James Madison, and their colleagues signed the original Constitution and sent it to the states for ratification. We should all use this important holiday as an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the Founding generation—who wrote the most durable and successful charter of government in world history—but we should also remember that the Framers only wrote the opening chapter in a much longer constitutional story. And this is precisely what the Framers themselves intended—leaving it up to future generations to use the Article V amendment process to improve upon their handiwork and "form a more perfect Union."

Perhaps the most important set of constitutional changes occurred after the Civil War, when President Lincoln and his generation ratified a series of transformational Amendments that many scholars have rightly described as our nation's "Second Founding." As we approach the 150th anniversaries of these key Second Founding Amendments—the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth—it's worth pausing for a moment on this Constitution Day to consider their centrality to America's constitutional story.

The Thirteenth Amendment banned slavery and forced labor—redeeming us from the Founding generation's original sin. Following his reelection in November 1864, President Lincoln worked furiously to convince members of Congress to support the Thirteenth Amendment, eventually securing congressional approval on January 31, 1865. The following day, Lincoln took the unusual step of signing the Thirteenth Amendment before sending it to the states for ratification, calling it a "King's cure" for the evil of slavery.

The Fourteenth Amendment is arguably the most important constitutional provision ratified after the Bill of Rights, enshrining a host of new constitutional guarantees in our nation's charter. It granted U.S. citizenship to everyone born on American soil—a guarantee worthy of special reflection on a day also set aside as Citizenship Day. It protected fundamental rights like free speech from state abuses and ensured due process of law for everyone. Finally, it wrote Jefferson's famous Declaration into the Constitution and perfected it by changing "all men" to "any person." This universal language guarantees equality for everyone—whether black or white, woman or man, gay or heterosexual.

Finally, the Fifteenth Amendment guaranteed the right to vote free of racial discrimination—beginning the most sustained project of constitutional improvement in American history. This project produced a total of six Voting Rights Amendments that established the right to vote as the most fundamental of all rights in our constitutional system.

Beginning this Constitution Day, we should use the 150th anniversary of the Second Founding to begin a national conversation about its enduring meaning and our nation's unfinished project of living up to the constitutional principles enshrined in its transformational Amendments. While our country has made tremendous progress since that day 227 years ago, our nation's story is not over and together we must continue building on our strong foundation to improve upon our more perfect union.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHERERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I recognize the Schererville Fire Department, as the organization celebrates its 100th anniversary. In honor of this momentous occasion, the Schererville Fire Department is hosting a celebratory event on Friday, September 26, 2014, at the Patrician Banquet Center in Schererville, Indiana.

The Schererville Volunteer Fire Department was established on June 25, 1914, under the direction of Fire Chief Fred Henderlong, and was made up of twenty-five volunteer members. In the early days, the firefighters did not receive compensation for their work. This changed in 1953, when one dollar was given to the members for attending a monthly meeting, responding to a call, or working for one hour. Today, the Schererville Fire Department is a fully paid organization consisting of sixty-one employees. Throughout the years, the department has changed its standards to fit the needs of the community. From purchasing the department's first motorized piece of fire equipment in 1922, to upgrading their ambulance service from basic life support to advanced life support in 2006, the Schererville Fire Department has upheld their mission statement of ''serving the needs of its people.''

The leaders and members of the Schererville Fire Department continue to touch lives through their outstanding community service, especially to those most in need. Every year, the organization lends its support to a variety of charitable organizations, including Hoosier Burn Camp, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the American Heart Association, Northwest Indiana Cancer Kids, ''Bump Out Cancer,'' Tri-Town Safety Village, Schererville Baseball League, and the Down Syndrome Association of Northwest Indiana.

At this time, I would like to acknowledge several individuals who, in conjunction with the Schererville Fire Department, have worked diligently to support this outstanding organization. In addition to the firefighters and all of the employees of the department, I would like to recognize Fire Chief Joseph M. Kruzan, Jr., Deputy Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Town Council President Mike Troxell, and Board of Safety Chairman Pete Sormaz.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the Schererville Fire Department on its 100th anniversary. Northwest Indiana is both grateful and proud to have had the organization's support during the past 100 years, and for their selfless service, the leadership and members of the Schererville Fire Department are worthy of the highest praise.

HONORING WWII VETERANS OF THE 485TH BOMB GROUP DURING 50TH AND FINAL REUNION IN DALLAS, TEXAS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize veterans of the 485th Bomb Group as they celebrate their 50th and final reunion this week in Dallas, Texas.

The 485th Bomb Group was one of four heavy bomb groups assigned to the 55th Bomb Wing during World War II. The 485th began conducting combat operations on May 10, 1944 with a mission to bomb the marshalling yard at what is now Knin, Croatia (formerly Yugoslavia). Their final mission was flown to the Linz, Austria marshalling yard on April 25, 1945. The group received a Distinguished Unit Citation for the June 26, 1944 mission to the Florisdorf Oil Refinery in Vienna, Austria. Despite encountering heavy flak and intense fighter opposition, the Group was able to inflict considerable damage to the refinery, crippling the enemy's vital fuel production during a crucial period of the war.

As we honor these heroes today, I am reminded of what President Calvin Coolidge once said, ''A nation which forgets its defenders, will itself soon be forgotten.'' I for one am committed to ensuring this nation never forgets the sacrifices that so many endured in order that we may enjoy the freedoms that have made our country so great.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and to acknowledge its continued efforts to safeguard our nation's land, water resources and cultural heritage.

Since its creation, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has preserved land in every state across America. The fund has supported more than 41,000 state and local park projects at no cost to hard-working taxpayers.

In Pennsylvania alone, the self-sustaining LWCF has provided more than $315 million in funding over the past five decades, benefiting restoration projects at national historic sites such as the Valley Forge National Historic Park and the Gettysburg National Military Park. In addition, the LWCF played a critical role in the creation of the Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset, PA.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund also spurs outdoor and recreational economic activity in and around preserved lands, accounting for jobs and a strong tax base for our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped to preserve and protect our nation's most precious lands and waters for the past 50 years. I celebrate the Fund and look forward to the excellent work the LWCF will do in the years to come.

VETERANS TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4276, the Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Improvement Act of 2014.

Mr. Speaker, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, which have demanded multiple deployments for many of our nation's courageous soldiers, have taken a psychological toll on U.S. service members.

As our brave military men and women fight to defend our great country, they put themselves at risk of combat-related health problems, including traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other brain related maladies.

More than 280,000 United States service members have been diagnosed with a degree of TBI in the past 10 years, and more than 19 percent of veterans may have some form of the disorder.

There is no doubt that these fearless men and women suffering from traumatic brain injuries deserve not only our gratitude, but also our support throughout recovery and treatment.

Thanks to the Assisted Living Pilot Program, these veterans struggling daily with TBI will be provided with 24-hour assisted living help.

Mr. Speaker, our United States veterans bravely put their life on the line to defend our freedoms and to keep our nation safe.

By passing H.R. 4276, veterans combating TBI and PTSD will receive assistance to enhance their rehabilitation, quality of life, and community integration.

The Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Care Act expands the requirements for Veterans Affairs Department reports to affirm the enrollment, completion, and effectiveness of the pilot program.

The community-integrated rehabilitation treatment provided by the pilot program will serve as a vital resource to our veterans as they overcome burdensome health problems.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4276 to show their support and gratitude for the sacrifices made by our service men and women, and to ensure that veterans battling traumatic brain injuries receive the care and rehabilitation they deserve.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF ARMANDO RAMÍREZ

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Armando Ramírez. Mr. Ramírez was born and raised in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, and

educated in the public school system. After graduating from high school, he joined the U.S. Army and served during the Korean War.

After serving in the military, Mr. Ramírez moved to New York City where he worked while continuing his education during the evenings. Mr. Ramírez attended John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, NY, and graduated from Saint Francis College, Brooklyn, NY in 1980, with a degree in Criminal Justice and Political Science. He took several civil service examinations and became a police officer in New York City. Mr. Ramírez believes now, as he did then, that working as a police officer was a mission, not just a career in public service.

During Mr. Ramírez's 30-year career as a law enforcement officer in New York City, he served in rackets and fraud investigations while assigned to the District Attorney's office in New York City. He worked in the organized crime, homicide, narcotics, major cases, political corruption, economic crime, and sex crimes bureaus.

Mr. Ramírez is currently the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Osceola County. He was elected on November 6, 2012 by an overwhelming majority. He is the first Hispanic to hold this position in the state of Florida.

In his capacity as Clerk, Mr. Ramírez responds to constituent concerns of wrongdoing. Currently, he is conducting a forensic examination of alleged fraudulent foreclosure documents submitted by banks to Osceola County courts.

I am happy to recognize Armando Ramírez, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his service to the United States and the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING DR. BINDUKUMAR KANSUPADA

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Bindukumar Kansupada of Yardley, Bucks County and a resident of Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District. As a cardiologist, successful business man and faithful community servant, Dr. Kansupada has been an incredible asset for the health and well-being to the families that call the Delaware Valley home. As a member on both of my physician's advisory and Indian American committees, Dr. Kansupada's talents and experience have been a vital part of my legislative and outreach efforts as we work together to provide Bucks County families with the type of patient centered healthcare solutions that keep our communities happy and healthy. I am honored to call Dr. Kansupada a personal friend and I look forward to partnering with him in the future so that Bucks County continues to be a great place to live, work and raise a family.

HONORING TAMMIE SCHNITZER

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a courageous American who took a stand against hate and intolerance in her hometown of Billings, Montana.

On a cold winter night in December a little more than 20 years ago, members of a local hate group threw a brick through the window of her young son's room. It was just the latest, but one of the most brazen and ominous, acts of hate committed against not just the local Jewish community but other minority groups as well, including Native Americans. Fortunately, Schnitzer's son, Isaac, was not injured, but Tammie knew this attack on her family—and on her community—required a very public response.

Her first step was to go to the editor of the local newspaper and ask that the attack on her family and her faith be a front page story. It was, and it led to the paper and the entire community rallying around the Schnitzer's, with paper menorah's soon festooning some 10,000 homes and businesses in Billings. The response of the people of Billings to this and other acts of hate didn't simply stymie the purveyors of such hate in and around Billings—it started a national movement that has spawned the ''Not In Our Town'' nonprofit group that fights acts of hate all across America.

I'm pleased that Hadassah and several of its New Jersey chapters, including the Alissa and Monroe Township Hadassah chapters in my Congressional district, will be honoring Tammie Schnitzer on September 21st. My best wishes to them and my deepest thanks to Tammie Schnitzer for her courage to public service.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RANDOLPH YMCA

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Randolph YMCA, located in Randolph, Morris County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 125th Anniversary.

The Randolph YMCA was founded in 1889 in Dover. The First Methodist Episcopal Church in Dover served as the first home of the YMCA, reaching beyond the Dover area and attracting nearly 200 people per day. In 1908, the YMCA expanded its territory to include Chester, Long Valley, Rockaway, Succasunna, Wharton, and Whippany.

From 1908–1950 the YMCA occupied various locations around Blackwell Street in Dover. In 1951, the need for a more permanent facility was recognized. And, as membership had drastically increased since the end of World War II, so did the need for a headquarters facility. The YMCA then opened a new facility on the corner of Route 46 and North Bergen Street.

In 1976 the name West Morris Area YMCA was established. The name was chosen to reflect the expanding service area, including Randolph Township. Due to the vast increase in membership, the Dover building would require an addition, but there was not enough property for both an expansion and parking. In 1977, the Y decided to build a new facility in Randolph Township.

The new facility on Dover Chester Road, Randolph, was officially opened in 1979. The building included a gymnasium, racquetball courts, a pool, fitness equipment, and program space. A childcare center was added in March 1999, which now serves as a shared space with the Randolph School District. In 2009 the late Mr. Clyde Utz donated a second pool, along with 7,500 sq. ft. of additional program space. In 2011, the YMCA received the ''Best of Aquatics Award'' from Aquatics International.

Now known as the Randolph YMCA, the organization offers a variety of health and wellness programs for all ages. The Randolph YMCA also offers numerous Youth Programs, including: Summer Day Camp, Progressive Swim Lessons, After School Child Care, and Youth Fitness and Conditioning.

The Randolph YMCA continues as a charitable non-profit organization that provides social, physical, and education programs to the community in order to help develop the mind, body, and spirit of all ages. The employees and volunteers at the Randolph YMCA remain focused on growing and improving the foundation to meet the needs of the community, today, and in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Randolph YMCA, its members, trustees, and many supporters, as it celebrates its 125th Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE DUMFRIES-TRIANGLE-QUANTICO LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STAR TEAMS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the tremendous performance and accomplishments of local players in the Dumfries-Triangle-Quantico (DTQ) Little League. During this past summer, the Junior, Senior, and Big League All-Star Teams won both the District 9 and Virginia State championships.

The Big League All-Stars have won the District 9 title for three years running, and this marked their third overall state title. The Senior All-Stars have won the District 9 title seven years-in-a-row and the state title four years-in-a-row. The Seniors went on to win the Southeast Regional Championship, securing a spot in the Senior League World Series. They advanced to the semifinal game, where they came up just short in a 3–2 loss to Latin America. The Junior All-Stars have now won four consecutive District 9 titles and their second state title during that period. The Juniors, many of whom have been playing together since they were 10 years old, advanced to the Southeast Regional semifinal game, where they were narrowly edged out in a 9–8 loss to Florida.

My office is proud to support little leagues throughout the community. The friendships

and experiences these athletes gain from participating in little league—learning the value of playing fair, working hard, making friends, showing good sportsmanship, and most of all, having fun—will benefit them throughout their lives. In addition to commending the players and coaches, I also want to recognize the efforts of Mel Barlow, who has been the DTQ Little League president for the past 13 years. It is thanks to the commitment of parents and volunteers like Mel that little leagues across our community and the country continue to thrive.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the players, coaches, and their families on these wonderful achievements. It is my pleasure to submit the names of the players and coaches of the Junior, Senior, and Big League All-Star Teams from the DTQ Little League into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

DTQ JUNIOR LEAGUE ALL STAR TEAM

Team Manager—Tim Jabs; Coaches—Rick Gatewood and Perry Peloquin; Daniel Hupart, #20; Robbie Stoss, #22; Anthony Stehlin, #12; Ethan Semones, #2; Carson Arguin, #9; Blake Gatewood, #5; Tommy Wells, #14; Tristan Thorgersen, #17; Darien Porter, #11; Jack Dumoulin, #18; Bennet Peloquin, #25; Connor Pedersen, #29; Jeremiah Rodriguez, #7.

DTQ SENIOR LEAGUE ALL STAR TEAM

Team Manager—Brendon Hanafin; Coaches—Bob Morrissey and Brian Blanton; Christian Colangelo, #9; Fox Semones, #2; Chris Redmon, #14; Thomas Thorgersen, #20; David Kelsey, #1; Liam Kelly, #11; Michael Morrissey, #00; Jared Bhatti, #8; Matthew Nickles, #18; Michael Nickles, #29; Patrick Hanafin, #12; Braxton Boone, #16; Daniel Shookster, #4; Riley O'Buck, #24; Ben Marotske, #10.

DTQ BIG LEAGUE ALL STAR TEAM

Team Manager—Shawn Boyce; Coaches—Ted Bridis and Jim Spellman; Kyle Adams, #23; Corbin Attreed, #12; Tyler Bailey, #29; Trey Bridis, #3; Tyler Feldman, #15; Sam Fuson, #10; Michael Hanafin, #20; Luke Harmon, #7; Chris Kennelly, #1; Stephen Laitinen, #11; Jake Moore, #34; Danny Morrissey, #2; Shawn Nickles, #18; Jacob Spellman, #14; Jake Blevins, #24.

HONORING THE 227TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DRAFTING OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 227th anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention.

It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and this memorable anniversary; and to the patriotic celebrations commemorating the occasion.

Within its very body is the framework that has allowed our great nation to prosper. The Constitution has guided us through both challenging and prosperous times as a nation, and has united us in defining the values of America.

I urge all citizens to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained.

HONORING KARL BRITTON ON HIS 30TH ANNIVERSARY AS A U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF MEMBER

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Karl Britton who today, September 17, 2014, celebrates his 30th anniversary as a staff member in the U.S. House of Representatives.

As an incoming freshman Member at the beginning of the 113th Congress, I, like all freshman Members, was faced with the challenge of setting up offices while also learning the workings of Congress and my role as a Member. I was extremely fortunate that Karl Britton joined my DC office staff, where his 28 years of experience and knowledge of working on the Hill were invaluable assets.

Karl Britton, a native of West Virginia, began working on the Hill on September 17, 1984, as a staff member for his Congressman, Harley Staggers, Jr., from the West Virginia 2nd Congressional District. Karl would serve on Congressman Staggers' staff until June of 1990 when he went to work for Congressman Jerry Costello, who was in his first full term representing the Illinois 21st District. Karl would work for Congressman Costello until the end of the 112th Congress when Costello decided not to run for re-election. Karl joined my staff at the beginning of the 113th Congress.

Karl has worked for three Members of Congress in his 30 years but has served during the terms of five Presidents, starting with Ronald Reagan, and seven Speakers of the House, starting with Tip O'Neill.

To understand the scope of Karl's popularity on the Hill, one only needs to walk with him anywhere within the crowded corridors of the Capitol complex. You cannot go more than 10 feet without someone calling out to Karl and everyone seems to be his friend. Karl knows someone in just about every office. He knows how to get things done and who to ask for any information. Karl has conducted countless tours for constituents and has provided assistance for dignitaries, all with the same professional courtesy.

Karl has two children, a son, Andrew, 24, and a daughter Aliyah, 14.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Karl Britton on his 30th anniversary of congressional service and wishing him all the best for many more years to come.

FEDERAL RESERVE TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 24, a bill that would undermine the Federal Reserve's independence and politicize its monetary policy decision making.

Mr. Speaker, this so called "Federal Reserve Transparency Act" has little to do with bringing transparency and accountability to the Federal Reserve. The truth is—this bill is nothing more than an effort to pressure and discourage the Fed from ever again being able to take the extraordinary action it has taken in recent years—action which has lowered unemployment, stabilized prices, and kept our economy from entering a second Great Depression.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Reserve is already subject to extensive transparency, oversight and disclosure requirements, including regular audits with limited exemptions.

The fact is, since 1982 the Government Accountability Office has had the authority to audit the books of the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Reserve Banks. And in 2009, as part of the Dodd-Frank Act, Congress required GAO to audit the emergency lending facilities created in response to the financial crisis. This has already been accomplished and the results of the audit are posted on the Federal Reserve's website.

If that wasn't enough, the Board's financial statements are audited on an annual basis by an outside auditor—and the results are published in the Board's Annual Report.

In addition to audits of its financial statements and emergency lending programs, the Federal Reserve provides comprehensive communication on monetary policy deliberations—releasing statements, publishing minutes and issuing transcripts following the completion of Federal Open Market Committee Meetings.

Furthermore, since 2011 the Chairman of the Federal Reserve has held regular press conferences to discuss the outlook for the economy and explain the rationale for its Federal Reserve policy decisions.

I find it baffling that we are here debating whether the Federal Reserve should be more open and transparent—even as Janet Yellen is scheduled to hold a press conference to discuss the outlook for monetary policy tomorrow afternoon.

While the Fed's decisions are—and must continue to be—transparent, it is also imperative that monetary policy decision making remain insulated from short-term political pressures—in order to promote economic growth and keep inflation in check.

But Mr. Speaker, this legislation would empower the GAO to investigate any and all policy decisions made by members of the Federal Reserve's rate setting committee, including decisions about when, and how, to unwind the Federal Reserve's ongoing stimulus program.

Doing so would wipe out all of the statutory protections that ensure deliberations, decisions, and actions on monetary policy matters are shielded from second guessing.

By empowering the GAO to challenge the decisions of Fed policy experts, and make legislative or administrative recommendations to the Congress, this measure aims to inject political pressure into monetary policy decisions—something that would undermine Fed's ability to make the tough—and sometimes unpopular—decisions that are necessary for the good of the economy.

But this is not the Republican Majority's first politically motivated assault on the Federal

Reserve's independence. We've seen this time and again.

Earlier this year Financial Services Committee Republicans took up and passed the "FRAT Act", a bill which virtually eliminates any discretion the Fed has to set monetary policy—by forcing it to make decisions in accordance with a mathematical formula and by requiring GAO to investigate any deviation from it—even in the case of changing economic conditions.

Such absurd constraints on the Federal Reserve would inevitably increase uncertainty surrounding policy decisions, and decrease the public's confidence that the Fed can act appropriately in response to new economic realities.

In closing I would reiterate that it is important for the American people to understand that these bills are not designed to address real problems, or a lack of transparency. Rather, the FRAT Act—and the bill before us today—are unnecessary.

They will cause needless uncertainty and undermine the Fed's ability to conduct monetary policy in an independent manner.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ADULT CARE OF CHESTER COUNTY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Adult Care of Chester County on its 30th anniversary of exemplary service in providing exceptional adult day services to the community. This is a great milestone and a considerable accomplishment and I take great pleasure in being able to honor the men and women of Adult Care of Chester County for their dedication and outstanding service.

For 30 years, the men and women of Adult Care of Chester County have dedicated themselves to serving dependent adults, having provided services to over 2,000 individuals and their families during that time. In recognition of their outstanding efforts, Adult Care of Chester County was named 2012 Outstanding Adult Day Center by the National Adult Day Services Association. For three decades, they have admirably pursued their mission to support and empower families in their caregiving experience by providing state-of-the-art care from a highly trained and compassionate staff.

Mr. Speaker, in light of its 30 years of outstanding service, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Adult Care of Chester County for its invaluable contributions to the quality of life of the citizens of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAMUEL C. LOPEZ

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Samuel C. Lopez. Samuel was born in Brooklyn, New York and graduated from the Bronx Vocational High School. Samuel went on to attend New York State School of Industrial & Labor Relations at Cornell University. After graduating, Samuel worked as a Journeyman Electrician Craftsman with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union Number 3 for over 30 years.

Samuel has always been involved with politics and helping his community. First getting involved in electoral campaigns in New York in the 1970s, he has remained active in politics since moving to Florida in the 1990s. Samuel has participated in numerous national, state, and local elections.

Samuel has taken the lead as Founder, Chairman, and President of numerous organizations including U.T.B., United Third Bridge, Inc. (U.T.B.), the Florida Puerto Rican/Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (FPRHCC), the Florida Puerto Rican/Hispanic and Minority Empowerment Committee, Brevard County's Annual Puerto Rican Day Parade, and the Royal Order of Juan Ponce de Leon Historical V Centennial Celebration Committee.

Samuel is currently a member of the Brevard County School System's Minority Advisory Committee, the Eastern Florida State College Police Advisory Council, the Brevard Community College Minority Partnership, and is a past member of the Brevard County Historical Commission.

Samuel partnered with the Equal Opportunity Commission in bringing 19 successful discrimination lawsuits against the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union Number 3, which resulted in a hiring practice that promotes hiring minorities. Through his work with U.T.B. and the FPRHCC, Samuel spearheaded the effort for the installation of a Juan Ponce de Leon statue and sponsorship wall at the Ponce de Leon Historical Landing Site at Melbourne Beach.

I am happy to honor Samuel C. Lopez, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his leadership and contributions to the Central Florida community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $17,760,739,788,762.62. We've added $7,133,862,739,849.54 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $7.1 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

URGING A STRONG FUNDING COMMITMENT TO THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my strong support of this welcome bipartisan reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act—an act first championed by my friend and mentor Senator Chris Dodd. But I also think we need to go further as an institution to support families with the high costs of this critical care.

We all know that, given the realities of today's workforce, quality child care is both a necessity in today's economy, and very expensive. It is often a family's biggest expense, bigger even than their mortgage. Families living in poverty pay almost a third of their income—30 percent—on this care.

The Child Care and Development block grant—CCBDG for short—is the only federal support available to offset the high costs of child care for low-income families. It helps children in working families have access to the quality care they need to learn and thrive in life later on.

But if anything, we are moving in the wrong direction in terms of covering eligible children. In the poorest families in the United States, only one in six eligible children receives child care assistance. And, at a time when nearly one in five working mothers with very young children are working low-wage jobs, our commitment to these families has dwindled.

Since 2006, over 250,000 eligible children have lost access to CCDBG-funded child care. The monthly average of children receiving this aid has fallen to its lowest levels since 1998. And because of budget cuts, many states have seen waiting lists grow and rates for providers plummet. That means less quality care.

I support the new requirements in this reauthorization—They include conforming to state health and safety standards, unannounced onsite monitoring visits, and criminal background checks for providers. But these requirements will cost money. And according to the states, without additional funding, the number of families who receive this aid could be cut by as much as 20 percent.

Mr. Speaker, time and again families all across this nation have told us that we can make a positive difference for them by facilitating access to quality child care.

Countless educational studies have stressed the importance of good care at an early age for children. And countless economic studies have told us that the return on these sorts of investments, in our kids and our future, are amazing.

So I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan reauthorization today. And I also urge them to match this vote with a strong budgetary commitment to CCDBG, and other critical child care investments, in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, last week we marked the 13th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attack. It is a day to remember and mourn those we lost, to comfort those who suffer still, and to honor those who responded on that day with courage and determination.

Whenever we talk about 9/11, we have to acknowledge the heroes and heroines of 9/11, both those who lost their lives that day and those who are still sick and dying from the injuries and illnesses related to 9/11. As a Congress, we stood together on the steps of the U.S. Capitol and vowed to never forget.

That vow of never forget comes with an obligation on the part of Congress to ensure that we as a country remember, honor, and care for those who risked their lives to save others that day and those who were caught in the devastation that occurred at Ground Zero, at the U.S. Pentagon, and at Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

A major piece of that promise to never forget was the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act that became law in 2011. This legislation established the World Trade Center Health Program to provide medical monitoring and treatment for 9/11-related illnesses as well as a national health program to serve those who were at the Pentagon, in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and those who came from around the country to aid in our country's recovery. It also reopened the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund to provide for economic losses and harm incurred from the aftermath of the attacks.

Today, there are more than 60,000 responders or survivors who got sick from exposure to the deadly toxins at 9/11, mixes of fuel, glass, asbestos, and all kinds of chemicals that were in the air that day. These thousands are now receiving treatment and monitoring from the Health Program. This also includes over 2,900 people in the World Trade Center Health Program who have been diagnosed with cancer.

Since 9/11 more than 800 New York Fire Department members and more than 550 New York Police Department personnel are struggling with serious 9/11-related illnesses.

We have already lost over 70 firefighters and 60 New York Police Department officers who have died from their 9/11-related illnesses over the past 13 years. These are people who got sick while working on rescue and recovery, and they have died because of their exposure.

These individuals with 9/11-related illnesses need continued specialized medical monitoring and care. It is unfair to cut them out of medical care and economic compensation simply because they did not get sick soon enough.

As it stands, the Zadroga Act is set to expire in October 2015, yet the medical and economic crises of sick 9/11 responders and suffering survivors will not end in 2 years. They will only get worse over time. Research shows significantly higher rates of cancer among the 9/11 population, a disease with a long latency period.

That is why I have introduced, along with PETER KING and JERRY NADLER, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act. This legislation would reauthorize the programs for 25 years and fulfill that promise to never forget.

We are joined in support by a bipartisan group of 37 Members from all over the country. First responders and volunteers came from every corner of America to help and aid in the recovery. Others who were present on 9/11 have since moved to other areas of the country. The World Trade Center Health Program includes participants from 429 of the 435 congressional districts. This means that in almost every Member's district, there are constituents who are being monitored or who are being treated under the World Trade Center Health Program.

We must continue these Zadroga Act programs that are vital to the sick and dying, those whom we said we will never forget.

SUPPORTING AFFORDABLE, QUALITY, FLEXIBLE CHILD CARE

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the expansion of resources for the Child Care Development Block Grant program.

As a mother of a 5-year old, I understand the need for affordable, quality, and accessible child care. The Child Care Development Block Grant of 2014 extends the program's original intent of supporting low-income working families by ensuring that children are in a setting that will keep them safe and encourage healthy development.

This reauthorization is a solid step to help families meet the expense of child care as it includes ambitious new changes that are important for a high quality child care system. However, the sweeping new requirements called for under this Act are not adequately funded. As states implement the new requirements envisioned in this legislation without additional resources, I fear the result will be that eligible children and families may lose access to child care assistance.

To successfully implement the much-needed improvements included in this legislation, we must re-double our efforts to increase mandatory and discretionary funding in order to meet the new standards set out under this program. As the federal government continues to increase expectations for child care providers and programs without new funding, I am concerned that already high turnover may be exacerbated and poverty wages for child care providers will remain the norm.

Families in poverty are spending 30% or more of their income on child care. Child care costs are simply unaffordable for many workers in low-wage jobs. With stagnant wages, this leaves many low-income working families struggling to find a safe place to care for their children. The average annual cost of full-time care for one child can be nearly $4,000 to over $16,000, especially in areas with high costs of living, like Los Angeles County.

A new National Women's Law Center analysis of state and national data shows that more than half of mothers who have very young children and work in low-wage jobs are raising children on their own; half are working full time; and over one-third are poor. They are disproportionately African-American or Hispanic.

I urge the Administration, in its implementation of this Act, to balance the requirements placed on states, child care providers, and an already under-resourced and stressed child care system with a realistic assessment of the new resources made available for implementation.

Expanding access to affordable quality child care is about the safety, economic development, and services that working families everywhere in the U.S. deserve.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend and congratulate my friends and colleagues at the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) on the occasion of the Commission's 50th anniversary. When it was first created, the Commission's primary task was to develop and manage a transportation system for Northern Virginia, but over the years, it has evolved and accomplished so much more than that.

NVTC has become a champion for commuters across the region, an advocate for sustainable transit funding, and a leading voice on transportation policy throughout the Commonwealth. One shudders to think what Northern Virginia might look like if not for the persistent efforts of the Commission to bring local, state, and federal leaders together to promote transit solutions that have made commuting more convenient and removed cars from our roads. Just as important, NVTC has become a training ground for staff and elected leaders, helping to inform policy makers and the public about the value of and urgent need for investing in transit choices. For example, the ranks of the Commission's past chairmen include our colleague, Representative JIM MORAN, who served on NVTC during his tenure as the Mayor of Alexandria, my predecessor, Tom Davis, who served as chair during his tenure on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and, yes, me. I was pleased to serve on the Commission throughout my tenure on the Fairfax Board of Supervisors.

Let me take just a few moments to recount some of the major milestones that have shaped the success of the NVTC and the growth of our region. Two major actions in 1964 laid the groundwork for NVTC to flourish. First, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson passed the Urban Mass Transit Act, which pumped $375 million over three years into public transit projects across the nation. The Virginia General Assembly followed by creating the Northern Virginia Transportation District to plan and construct a transportation network that promoted safety, convenience, and economic growth.

The Commission did not waste time, starting work on a rapid transit system that first year.

Two years later, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (or Metro) compact, a partnership among the regional jurisdictions, was created, and planning began for bus and future rail routes. Momentum increased during the 1970s. NVTC received a federal grant to build the nation's first transit way, the Shirley Highway Bus Project. Metro broke ground with Blue, Orange and Yellow Line service to Virginia starting in the late '70s. NVTC launched a new program known then as Computeride, which later became Commuter Connections, to help commuters plan their trips to work and establish carpools.

NVTC secured a major victory in the early 1980s when it worked with the Virginia General Assembly to pass a 2 percent regional gas tax to support Metro bus and rail service. Planning also began for a new commuter rail service extending to Prince William and Stafford counties. Transit service continued to expand during the 1990s with the new Virginia Railway Express (VRE). In 1996, NVTC was awarded the American Public Transportation Association's Outstanding Government Agency Award. During the past decade, NVTC has been actively planning the next generation transportation network to meet the challenges of Northern Virginia's growth and working with elected leaders at all levels to provide the dedicated funding that will be necessary to deliver those improvements.

It is fitting that NVTC marks its 50th anniversary with one of the largest expansions of the Metro system with the opening of the new Silver Line with service to Tysons and Reston earlier this year. There are now 156 million transit trips in Northern Virginia. Metro, with 91 stations across the region, including 25 in Virginia with six more under construction with phase 2 of the Silver Line, serves more than 750,000 rider trips a day. Metro bus now has 335 routes and 15,000 bus stops throughout the region. VRE, which now operates 30 trains from 18 stations, carries 20,000 passengers daily. Of course, all of that is supplemented by the cities and counties with their own transit services. Demonstrating the tremendous reach and success of NVTC's collective efforts, transit and ridesharing now carry nearly 50 percent of the region's peak travelers.

Mr. Speaker, the success of NVTC has fueled the success of not only Northern Virginia, but also the National Capital Region. The tradition of collaboration and shared investment that has characterized NVTC will serve our communities for generations to come. NVTC's collaborative success gives witness to the fact that our politics can work to serve our constituents. I was proud to be a part of it for 14 years, and I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the staff and leadership, both past and present, of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission for their commitment to providing a world-class transportation system and improving the quality of life for those who live and work in the National Capital Region.

A TRIBUTE TO BISHOP-ELECT PASTOR WALTER F. HARVEY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on October 31–November 2, 2014, Parklawn Assembly of God Church will celebrate the Installation of Pastor Walter F. Harvey to the Episcopal Assignment of Bishop. Also, during this special and historic weekend when Pastor Harvey will be installed, Parklawn Assembly of God Church will celebrate its 105th Anniversary.

Bishop-Elect Walter F. Harvey has been the Senior Pastor of Parklawn Assembly of God Church since 1993. He is the devoted husband of Judy Martin Harvey, the father of Nicholas J. Harvey and grandfather of Autumn Marie Harvey. Since assuming the role of Senior Pastor, he has not only led the worship facility in the renovation of the building but also instituted a new church constitution and bylaws which has brought a spirit of renewal to the church and the community. Bishop-Elect Harvey is an author, mentor, and life coach. He is the President of Walter Harvey Ministries, Inc., an international media communications and consulting firm and can be heard daily on the "Light for the World" and "Light for Today" radio broadcasts. Further, he founded the Parklawn Christian Leadership Academy in 1998.

Bishop-Elect Harvey is in great demand as a speaker around his community, city, nationally and internationally. He serves the Assemblies of God statewide and at the national level as a General Presbyter and vice president of the National Black Fellowship of the Assemblies of God, as an Executive Presbyter of the Wisconsin/Northern Michigan Ministry Network and as an Ethnic/Language Presbyter. He also serves pastors as an overseer of the Outpouring Ministry Network Group; a group of seven Milwaukee area pastors/ministries. Bishop-Elect Harvey serves on the boards of various social, economic, educational and philanthropic organizations. He is a man of God who not only serves the members of his congregation, but reaches out to make community a better place.

Mister Speaker, this is why I rise to praise Bishop-Elect Walter F. Harvey, a man I am proud to call a friend. I honor Bishop-Elect Walter F. Harvey's many accomplishments and life time commitment to the entire Milwaukee Community and 4th Congressional District.

HONORING LIBERTY COMMON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention to Liberty Common High School's (LCHS) outstanding performance on the ACT college readiness assessment. Liberty Common High School is a relatively new public high school located in Fort Collins, Colorado, and its students performed exceptionally on this year's exam. Liberty's achievement not only shows the intellectual strength of the Class of 2015, but also demonstrates the overall success of the charter school's educational program.

The ACT is a college readiness assessment that all Colorado high school students are required to take in their junior year. In both 2012 and 2013, Liberty Common High School achieved the highest composite ACT score in the state of Colorado. This year, Liberty Common High School's composite score of 28.63 was not only the highest of all the high schools in Colorado, but was also the highest in the history of our great state. LCHS also now holds the record for every subject category on the ACT. These feats are particularly impressive given the fact that LCHS only opened in 2010 and is such a young school. It has obtained the highest ACT score in the state in every year that its students have taken the test.

Academic achievement at this level not only shows the success of a charter school built on parental involvement, but also the strength of the curriculum taught at Liberty Common High School. The principal of Liberty Common High School, former Congressman Bob Schaffer said, "These scores are a reflection of a solid classical, college-preparatory curriculum we've built atop the powerful Core Knowledge curriculum we use in grades K through eight." This Core Knowledge curriculum, along with the character education in both elementary and high school, is structured in a way so that students' knowledge builds upon what they learned in the previous year. The foundational skills learned in the elementary grades allow students to reach a higher level of education in high school.

While in high school, LCHS students are not only challenged by their classes and teachers, but also by their peers. Members of Liberty Common High School's Class of 2015, who have just recently set the ACT composite score record for the state of Colorado, attribute their success, in part, to the class which preceded them. The Class of 2014 not only set the bar high for the class below them, but held sessions that helped juniors prepare for the ACT early. They challenged the Class of 2015 to beat their score while helping them to do so. A student community like the one at Liberty allows students to invite others to try their best while offering help to one another in the process.

This score is outstanding, but what is more outstanding is what this score symbolizes—a school run by parents, chosen by parents, and supported by parents preparing their children to achieve in college and in life. Successes like these should not go unnoticed, but instead should be highlighted as an example for what a great public education can achieve.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MELBA LUCIANO

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Melba Luciano. Mrs. Luciano earned her bachelor's degree in Health Education from Hunter College in New York and a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Nova University.

A dedicated educator, she has over 30 years of experience in education, through a variety of positions including Classroom Assistant, Teacher, Elementary Resource Specialist, Assistant Principal, Principal, and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. She began her career with the Osceola School District in 1986, and was

named Superintendent in 2012. Mrs. Luciano is the first Latina superintendent in the Florida public school system.

As Superintendent, Mrs. Luciano provides leadership for the district and school administration, as well as facilitates continuous improvement, educational accountability, and community support through partnerships with stakeholders. She works collaboratively with students, parents, faculty and staff, administrators, community residents, and School Board Members to annually develop an annual strategic plan focused on the district's vision for student success.

In June 2014, the Florida Department of Education recognized the Osceola School District as one of only five Florida counties to improve in all seven assessment areas in reading, mathematics, and science.

Mrs. Luciano has a strong sense of leadership, an unrivaled sense of professionalism, and a passion for community involvement and collaboration. In March 2013, she was awarded the National Association for Bilingual Education's Citizen Award.

I am happy to recognize Melba Luciano, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her passion for education and commitment to improving the Central Florida community.

HONORING JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE'S TUTORING AND LEARNING CENTER

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the ribbon cutting of Joliet Junior College's Tutoring and Learning Center in Joliet, Illinois.

Joliet Junior College was the first public community college in the nation, and since its founding in 1901 it has provided students with excellent educational opportunities. This tradition will continue with the opening of the Tutoring and Learning Center.

The Tutoring and Learning Center will provide students with free access to tutoring services such as drop-in math assistance, presentation training, online tutoring, and writing assistance, all under one roof. These services will give Joliet Junior College students the skills they need to succeed not only in their education, but after graduation as well.

Again, I would like to congratulate Joliet Junior College on the opening of the Tutoring and Learning Center and thank the college for its hard work on behalf of our students.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE NFL'S ACTIONS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter regarding domestic violence and the NFL's actions:

SEPTEMBER 9, 2014.

ROGER GOODELL,
Commissioner, National Football League, New York, NY.

DEAR COMMISSIONER GOODELL: Today I called for the NFL to take immediate action in announcing a major effort on fighting national domestic violence. It would be appropriate for the NFL to initiate major funding effort to stop domestic violence now. Domestic violence hits every sector of the Nation without respect to race, religion, wealth and/or gender. Many Americans have lost their lives at the hands of domestic violence. The NFL can collaborate with other professional sports organizations and produce a major gift to provide resources to anti domestic violence groups, health clinics, law enforcement and faith organizations to stop the crisis of domestic violence.

As a Senior Member of the House Judiciary Committee and the Founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus who helped reauthorize the most recent Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA), I think it's imperative that we deal with this situation now. Statistics show that one in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year. 85% of domestic violence victims are women.

It is imperative that we come together in strong support of a national, broad and comprehensive strategy to address the causes and effects of domestic violence. Weighing heavily on our conscience is the fact that an estimated 46 million children in our country are exposed to violence each year through crime, abuse and trauma. The gravity of the current situation with Ray Rice and the NFL cannot be overstated.

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior perpetrated by an intimate partner against another. It is an epidemic affecting individuals in Houston, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality or educational background. Violence against women is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior, and thus is part of a systematic pattern of dominance and control. Domestic violence results in physical injury, psychological trauma sometimes death. The consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and truly last a lifetime.

Since coming to Congress I have spearheaded efforts to ensure women have equal opportunity and are treated fairly. I have fought year after year for adequate funding to make shelters and supportive services more accessible to victims of family and domestic violence. It is now time for the NFL to place some of their resources into these shelters and programs that work to alleviate domestic violence in our society. The scourge of domestic violence cannot be silenced or covered up. It is real and the NFL, after all the talk is done, can have a visible, constant and long term impact by providing this major funding initiative. We must take on this challenge with the recognition that changing the pervasive culture of domestic violence will not happen overnight. While we can act now and pass legislation to ameliorate some of causes of the domestic violence epidemic, this problem is larger than our laws. That is why we must make an enduring commitment to our families and children suffering from domestic violence.

To respond or ask any questions about this letter, please contact my Chief of Staff Glenn Rushing at 202–225–3816. A prompt response to this letter would be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

SHEILA JACKSON LEE,
Member of Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF NAROPA UNIVERSITY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Boulder, Colorado's own Naropa University, in celebration of its 40th anniversary. Naropa University is this nation's leader in contemplative education and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

40 years ago, a Tibetan-born Buddhist leader named Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche, who as a young man led hundreds of Tibetans on foot from a besieged homeland, assembled a collection of students and guest faculty for the first summer session in Boulder at what is now called Naropa University. Trungpa's vision was to create a university that would combine contemplative studies with traditional Western scholastic and artistic disciplines.

The first classes at Naropa University (then called the Naropa Institute) were held in a summer session in a vacated bus garage, now the site of the Alfalfa's supermarket. The organizers expected around three hundred people to show up. Instead, more than 1,300 students flocked to Boulder, and in the process, transformed Boulder into an energetic center of learning, culture, and the performing arts.

As the leader in contemplative education, an approach to learning and teaching that integrates Eastern wisdom studies with traditional Western scholarship, Naropa has always been a magnet for great minds, intellectual curiosity, and those who search for greater meaning. Indeed, Naropa is renowned for its ability to attract spiritual leaders, such as His Holiness the Dalai Lama, political and business leaders, and global thought leaders. And through Naropa's vaunted Summer Writing Program, generations of writers, performers, and activists have come of age and worked side-by-side with some of our nation's greatest poets, authors, and performers.

Naropa is now firmly embedded in the cultural, academic, and economic fabric of Boulder. Each year, 1000 undergraduate and graduate students seek degrees that will enable them to transform the world around them. Programs in counseling psychology, performing arts, art therapy, writing and poetics, early childhood and K–12 education, environmental leadership, peace studies, religious studies and pastoral counseling and traditional eastern arts are training a new generation of leaders. Thousands of Naropa alumni are changing the world for the better through work in nonprofits, small business and social enterprise start-ups, therapy, counseling, teaching and writing. They studied with a distinguished faculty who are nationally and internationally recognized for their scholarship and contemplative teaching techniques. And finally, Naropa was recently named both a "College of Distinction" and one of the "8 Greenest Colleges" in the United States.

Naropa University is truly a Colorado treasure. I'm so proud to join my fellow Boulderites, as well as the thousands of Naropa alumni around the world, in congratulating Naropa University on its 40th Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING WALTER FURNACE ON RECEIVING NAFCU'S PAUL REVERE AWARD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Walter R. Furnace on receiving the National Association of Federal Credit Union's Paul Revere Award. Walter received this award because he excels at promoting the credit union industry's most pressing concerns. In his work with the American Airlines Federal Credit Union (AAFCU), Walter has demonstrated great passion for supporting credit unions and their mission to provide members an opportunity to have a hand in the services they use for the financial wellbeing of their families. Walter's relationship building and strong work ethic over the years continues to prove successful. He works to build relationships not only with Members of Congress from his home state, but where AAFCU has fields of membership as well. His strong grasp of issues affecting credit unions and their members allows him to be an effective member of NAFCU's operations. I've had the pleasure of working with Walter for many years.

Walter uses his experience in public service as a former State Representative of Alaska to benefit those whom he serves by effectively advancing the priorities of credit unions in the public sphere. His past public service catalyzed his success in his current role, caring and doing what he can for his members.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Walter Furnace as a recipient of the National Association of Federal Credit Union's Paul Revere Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARS CHOCOLATE IN ALBANY, GEORGIA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the associates and leadership of the Mars Chocolate manufacturing facility in Albany, Georgia as they celebrate 50 years of operation. The Mars Chocolate plant will commemorate this milestone with a celebration to be held on Friday, October 10, 2014.

Family owned since 1911, Mars, Incorporated has 44 manufacturing facilities in the United States and employs more than 26,500 associates. It has diverse consumer businesses in chocolate, gum and confections, food, drinks and pet care. Mars strives to create a mutuality of benefits among all stakeholders through its Five Principles: Quality, Efficiency, Responsibility, Mutuality and Freedom.

The Mars plant in Albany opened in 1964 as ''Peanut Masters'' and operated primarily as a peanut roasting facility. This plant has a long history and a strong connection to the Georgia peanut industry and today roasts all the peanuts for Snickers®, Snickers® Ice Cream, Snickers® Peanut Butter Squared, M&M's® Peanut Butter, and Twix® PB Bars in the United States. The plant employs 172 of my constituents and now manufactures Combos® and Marathon® bars, in addition to the roasting operation.

For the past 50 years, Mars has had a tremendous impact on the Albany, Georgia community. Not only does it offer economic benefits by providing jobs, the company also encourages its associates to give back to the community through various community engagement programs.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask that my colleagues join me and the more than 700,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in congratulating the Mars Chocolate manufacturing facility in Albany, Georgia for 50 years of operation. I am so glad to have this iconic American company in my District and I look forward to 50 more years of continued success in Southwest Georgia.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID STARR AND HIS DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN JOURNALISM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great personal satisfaction that I pay tribute to a remarkable individual who has spent more than 70 years working in the only profession that ever mattered to him: journalism. David Starr knew he wanted to be in the newspaper business when he was in the fifth grade, and since then, he has gone on to have a long and distinguished career with the Newhouse publications. He has been a reporter, an editor, a publisher and a president; performing each task with enthusiasm and great skill. To me, he is the quintessential newspaperman, bringing passion, integrity and devotion to his beloved craft. More importantly, I am proud to call him my friend.

As much as David Starr enjoys his day job, he has another keen interest, and that is making western Massachusetts a better place to live, work and raise a family. Since I first met him in 1977, few people have done more to improve the quality of life in the Pioneer Valley. Under his leadership, downtown Springfield experienced an unprecedented rebirth. He encouraged the public and private sectors to work together to bring economic development and jobs to the region. The Monarch Building, the Sheraton Hotel, the Bank of Boston Building and a new state-of-the-art high speed color press are all living proof of his tireless efforts. He had a vision for our community and it was realized. But knowing David Starr, I am certain that he believes his work is far from complete.

It should not come as a surprise that he used to read 13 New York newspapers every day in his youth. A born journalist with a curious mind, David got his start with the Long Island Press in 1940. That is where his lifelong partnership with the Newhouse family began. They recognized his talents and he quickly rose through the ranks. Following his service in the Army, he returned to the paper where he would eventually become its senior editor. His hard work was rewarded once again when the Newhouse family sent him to Massachusetts to run the Springfield Republican. He has been in his corner office at 1860 Main Street ever since.

Besides his fondness for the newspaper business, the other constant in David's life has been his wife Peggy. For more than a half century they have been a formidable team. Their philanthropic efforts and willingness to give back to our community is legendary. If you have heard the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, visited our extraordinary museums, listed to public radio or watched WGBY, you can thank David and Peggy Starr. They have continually invested in our cultural institutions and helped make a difference in the place we call home.

As his friends and colleagues gather together in Springfield this week, I want to join them in thanking David for many years of friendship. For eight decades, you have been a fixture in the newsrooms of America. You have encouraged your writers and informed your readers. Both you and Peggy have generously given your time and resources for the betterment of others. And the lasting contributions you have made to our community will never be forgotten. On behalf of the United States of House of Representatives, let me congratulate you on a job well done.

RECOGNIZING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2014 BEST OF BRADDOCK AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2014 Best of Braddock Awards, presented by the Braddock District Council of Community Associations. These awards are given annually to deserving individuals, organizations, and companies in the Braddock Magisterial District of Fairfax County, Virginia, who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the community.

The goal of the Braddock District Council is to promote the civic, community, and general welfare of the citizens of the Braddock District. The Council represents the interests of community associations, facilitates cooperation and coordination between associations, and provides a path of communications between associations and officials or elected representatives of the Braddock District.

I am pleased to join the Braddock District Council of Community Associations in recognizing the following Recipients of the 2014 Best of Braddock Awards:

Citizen of the Year—Norma Heck, founding member and immediate past president of the North Springfield Civic Association, for nearly 40 years of extensive involvement in the community. Norma is well known for her dedicated service and although she has reached an age at which most people decide to slow down a bit, she plans to become even more active on the NSCA board and in Braddock District Council programs.

Young Person of the Year—Elizabeth Banks, who is a student at Robinson Secondary School, for her many efforts on behalf of others including working with children, volunteering for Second Chance Employment

Services, which assists victims of domestic violence, assisting in the renovation of an orphanage in the Dominican Republic, and organizing a Special Olympics basketball game at Robinson. As a volunteer at the medical neurology lab at Georgetown University, she participated in efforts to create a protein that could be used by others to test its role in Parkinson's disease. She will no doubt continue to remain involved and engaged in her community at the University of Virginia next year.

Most "Can-Do" Public Employee—Julie Tahan, Lake Accotink Park Supervisor, for her management that has allowed Lake Accotink to be one of the most outstanding parks in Fairfax County, and for her outstanding leadership capabilities demonstrated through her coordination of the efforts to recover from tropical storms and organization of the annual Cardboard Boat Regatta.

Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification by a Homeowner—Paula and David McKinley, for their beautiful and extensive rose garden that has included more than 75 varieties of roses. Their spectacular garden has enhanced the aesthetics of the neighborhood since the early 1990s.

Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification by a Community—Greg Sykes of Kings Park West for his commitment to the environment through teaching volunteers about the impacts of non-native invasive species, replanting native vegetation, giving nature walks around Royals Lake, and contributing to the Kings Park West Herald, other publications, and his website.

Organizations Making a Difference in the Community—The David R. Pinn Center for creating a welcoming environment and dynamic programs for all members of the community, including senior citizens and students. Sarah Tinsley is receiving special recognition for her work with teens and the establishment of the "Stand Up, Step Up, Speak Up (S3UP) program which focuses on leadership training, citizenship and job-readiness, and is the only community center based S3UP program in the county.

Special Recognition—Rohil Bhinge, student at Mosby Woods Elementary School, for leading efforts to complete a fully accessible playground in the Braddock District. Rohil organized fun runs in 2012, 2013, and 2014 to raise funds and community support for a regional facility where children of all abilities can play.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these outstanding residents and organizations and also in thanking them for their service to our community. Their efforts and leadership have been a great benefit to the Braddock District and the rest of Northern Virginia and truly merit our highest praise.

COMMENDING THE 2014 FIESTA HISPANA

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Centro Hispano of Dane County as it hosts Fiesta Hispana, an annual celebration of the Latino community in Madison, Wisconsin.

The festival is an important community event that showcases Latino heritage and culture. Fiesta Hispana offers traditional cuisine and features wonderful dance and music performances as well as fun activities for all family members to enjoy.

The impact of Centro Hispano is felt every day throughout the community, not just through today's event. The center engages with the community and connects residents with vital education, career and general support resources.

I commend the mission and tireless work of Centro Hispano of Dane County to serve and empower local Latino youth and families.

It is an honor to celebrate Fiesta Hispana 2014 as we come together to celebrate the diverse Latino cultures that enrich our community and make it stronger.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARIBEL GOMEZ-CORDERO

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Maribel Gomez-Cordero. Maribel was born and raised in Puerto Rico. She has been living in Orlando, Florida for the past eighteen years. She and her husband, Henry Cordero, have been married for 27 years and have three children, Marian, Henry, and Erik. Maribel is also an active member and leader of The Potter's House Assembly of God Church.

Maribel earned a Master's Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling specializing in Marriage and Family, from Webster University. Throughout her career as a Social Worker, she has worked for Children's Home Society of Florida, and as a Clinical Therapist for Life & Work Soulutions counseling clinic. Maribel has always dedicated herself to work for those who experience crisis, and provides support to individuals, families and groups within her community. In 2002, the Educational Foundation for the Advancement of Child Welfare honored her with the "A Person That Makes A Difference" Award from the Florida Coalition for Children of Central Florida.

Maribel is also the Vice President for WE Hispanic Women Chamber of Commerce and a Volunteer and Advisor for the Victim of Domestic Violence Program at Nuevo Sendero. Besides her career in social work, Maribel managed her husband and brother-in-law's photography, videos, and public relations company. She was also the editor of the newspaper OJO which dealt with news in the photography and art industry. Maribel currently manages her own private practice in which she is also a psychotherapist.

Maribel was a candidate for Orange County Commissioner for District 4 in the Primary Elections on August 26, 2014. She continues to follow her passion for working with families in the community.

I am happy to recognize Maribel Gomez-Cordero, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her commitment to working with Central Florida's families.

WASHINGTON "REDSKINS" DEBATE: YOU CAN USE CAPS, CHANGE WILL PREVAIL

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, in an ignorant display of defiance, NFL owner Dan Snyder vowed to continue his racist use of the offensive term "redskins" for his Washington team when he stated, "We'll never change the name. NEVER—you can use caps."

For historical purposes and in response to Mr. Snyder's unceasing, racist rants which disrespect Native Americans across this land who oppose the use of this derogatory term, I rise today to share with my colleagues and submit an editorial I recently co-authored with Suzan Harjo, a noted Native American rights advocate, entitled "Change Will Prevail".

[From The Hill, Sept. 9, 2014]

CHANGE WILL PREVAIL

(By Eni F.H. Faleomavaega and Suzan Shown Harjo)

In 1933 George Preston Marshall renamed his team the Washington Redskins, previously known as the Washington Braves, to avoid confusion with the Boston Braves. He did not seek federal trademark protection for the name until 1967, when students were trying to rid Oklahoma, Dartmouth, Stanford and other schools of their race-based stereotypes and were using the example of the Washington team name as the worst in the country. The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) wrongly granted him and later owners six trademark licenses for this racial slur.

Some suggest this action was in violation of the Trademark Act of 1946, or the Lanham Act, which directs the USPTO to refuse to register trademarks that "may disparage . . . persons, living or dead, institutions, beliefs, or national symbols, or bring them into contempt, or disrepute." In 1999 and again this year, the USPTO's trademark judges canceled the existing federal trademarks, pending appeal, and its examining attorneys have denied a dozen requests for new trademarks.

While pundits on both sides of the argument dispute its origins, the term "redskins" is reminiscent of colonial times when, by governmental decree, Native Americans were hunted, killed, and scalped for bounty. The struggle to rid the sports world of this disgusting term is about that heinous history of commodifying native skins.

In June of this year, the USPTO responded favorably to a petition filed by five young Native Americans, holding that the offending trademarks, owned by Pro-Football, Inc, (the entity that owns and operates the Washington franchise) were "disparaging to Native Americans at the respective times they were registered." We applaud the USPTO's cancellation of the six federal trademark registrations that use this disparaging term.

Foreseeing that current owner Dan Snyder would appeal the USPTO decision just like he did in 1999, historic legislation was introduced in the House of Representatives that would permanently clarify the Lanham Act to ensure that the derogatory term will never receive federal trademark protection again. H.R. 1278, the Non-Disparagement of Native American Persons or Peoples in Trademark Registration Act of 2013, now has more than 20 co-sponsors.

As early as May 13, 2013, 10 members of the House also sent a joint letter to Snyder and

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell expressing the necessity for H.R. 1278 and urging a name change for the Washington franchise. Members of the Senate later solidified support by sending a similar letter to the NFL on May 24, 2014.

The clarion call by Native American tribal leaders and organizations to end the shameful legacy of this despicable term can no longer be ignored. Members of the House and Senate have spoken. President Obama thinks the name should be changed. So does U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder. U.S. District Judge Peter J. Messitte held: ''the Court will refrain from using the team name unless reference is made to a direct quote where the name appears.'' Bob Costas, Christine Brennan and other notable journalists, athletes and political figures have joined the effort to rid the NFL of this denigrating word. The Washington Post will no longer use the offensive word in its editorials. The New York Daily News refuses to acknowledge the word in its publications. Even an entire network—CBS—has decided not to dictate the use of this term on the air, allowing its announcers to stop using the term during NFL broadcasts this season.

You can use caps. Change will prevail. Until it does, we call upon the NFL to stop perpetuating racism against Native Americans.

RE-DESIGNATING THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE INTO A NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the National Park Service's continuous effort to protect the legacy of my dear friend and brother, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In particular, the NPS's current effort to re-designate the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site into a National Historic Park is of great significance.

Dr. King helped lead a nonviolent revolution, a revolution of values, a revolution of ideas. He inspired an entire generation to find a way to get in the way, to find a way to get in trouble—good trouble, necessary trouble. Through his actions, speeches, and writings, he helped create the climate for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Re-categorizing this site as a park better reflects the truly monumental spirit of the area and its complexity. The area not only includes Dr. King's gravesite and birth home, which the National Park Service preserves, maintains and educates visitors about via tours, but it also stretches to contain the Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church where Dr. King, his father and his grandfather served as pastors. It also includes the entire block where Dr. King's birth home is located and contains the first integrated and longest active fire station in Atlanta, which Dr. King frequently visited as a boy. The block also consists of more than 20 historic properties, including Victorian homes, apartments and shotgun houses that were all restored to their 1930 appearances.

Last year, over 700,000 people traveled worldwide to visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. Re-designating it as a National Historic Park would better reflect the complexity of the area and would have minimal associated costs, only changing signage and printed materials. I applaud the National Park Service for making this a priority, and I ask my colleagues to support this legislation to preserve Dr King's life and legacy.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRAIG BROOK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery as it celebrates its 125th anniversary.

Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery, in East Orland, Maine, is one of two Maine facilities in the National Fish Hatchery System of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I am pleased to celebrate the great contributions the hatchery has made to preserving and restoring Atlantic salmon populations in the Northeast.

Craig Brook was established in 1889 to raise Atlantic salmon for stocking Maine waters. Today, the hatchery supports two Atlantic salmon programs. The facility receives adult salmon from the Penobscot River for breeding purposes and produces up to three million eggs per year, transferring about one million to Green Lake National Fish Hatchery in Ellsworth, while the rest are raised at Craig Brook and released as fry. Craig Brook also rears salmon caught from six Maine rivers with endangered populations and releases spawn back into these same rivers.

Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery, like all of our nation's fish hatcheries, does indispensable work in the preservation and restoration of endangered aquatic species. This is why I have been proud to support legislation to ensure that our nation's fish hatcheries continue to serve the public for years to come.

Craig Brook's important scientific work to preserve our region's fish embodies the environmentally conscious spirit of Maine. I am delighted to recognize the accomplishments of Craig Brook and its dedicated team and look forward to their continued success well into the future.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery on 125 years of exceptional research and conservation work.

HONORING A.B.A.T.E'S 34TH ANNUAL MOTORCYCLE TOY RUN

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Pennsylvania chapter of the Alliance of Bikers Aimed Toward Education (A.B.A.T.E) 34th Annual Motorcycle Toy Run.

The Toy Run was formed by A.B.A.T.E in 1980 with a simple goal: to bring Christmas joy and smiles to the faces of underprivileged children throughout the Greater Philadelphia region, many of whom live in Pennsylvania's 1st Congressional district. The run began with 30 motorcyclists in its first year. Since then, it has grown tremendously, with an expected 10,000 motorcyclists expected to participate in this year's ride. The Toy Run is open to motorcyclists and spectators alike, all in support for the cause.

The motorcyclists will depart from the Delaware River waterfront and head west through the city led by Santa Claus and Justice Seamus McCaffery, a Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. At the finish line, the procession will deliver toys to the United States Marine Corps for their ''Toys for Tots'' program.

I invite you and all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 34th Annual Motorcycle Toy Run of the Pennsylvania chapter of A.B.A.T.E. May its philanthropy and dedication to bringing joy to the underprivileged children of the Philadelphia region be an inspiration to all of us in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF INSIGHT MEMORY CARE CENTER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Insight Memory Care Center (IMCC) of Fairfax, Virginia, on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary and to recognize the extraordinary work this non-profit organization has done to provide services to people with memory related impairments as well as education and support to their families.

Formerly known as Alzheimer's Family Day Center, IMCC was established in 1984 to benefit people who were not being served by existing community services—specifically people in the middle to late stages of dementia or those with behavior challenges. The organization recently changed its name to better reflect the variety of services offered since it does far more than serve as a center for people afflicted by Alzheimer's disease.

What began as an adult day health center with just three participants on its opening day will soon move to a new location where it can serve 50 people per day. Moreover, IMCC has become a comprehensive health and resource provider that offers a spectrum of holistic care, with a vision of a community where those affected by memory impairments can achieve the highest quality of life and their families and caregivers can receive counseling, education, and support.

IMCC's adult day health center provides a safe, engaging, and therapeutic environment for individuals with memory impairment. It is the only dementia-specific day center in the D.C. metro area and remains the only adult day health center in Northern Virginia with programs for people in the later stages of an Alzheimer's disease. IMCC's innovative education and support programs provide caregiver classes, community trainings, professional seminars, support groups, individual consultations, and home visits. These programs help family members remain confident and effective in their caregiving roles and increases awareness and understanding of the disease in the community.

These efforts have garnered well-deserved recognition. Among other accolades, IMCC has been named one of the ''Best Small Charities in the Washington Region'' by the Catalogue for Philanthropy three times and was honored to be recognized as Adult Day Center of the Year from the National Adult Day Services Association in 2013.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating IMCC for 30 years of success and in thanking its staff, volunteers, and supporters for their service to our community.

SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE'S NATIONAL TRADEMARK EXPO

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support of the United States Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO) National Trademark Expo, an important educational event that advances the USPTO's mission to deliver intellectual property information and education to the public. In a time of ongoing challenges for the American and global economy, I want to join the USPTO in its efforts to recognize the vital role that trademarks play in the economy.

The USPTO disseminates trademark information at the Expo to educate the public about the important role that trademarks play in our society and the global marketplace. This year's two-day event will be held on Friday, October 17th, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday, October 18th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. Attendees learn about trademarks from exhibitors, displays, seminars, children's workshops and activities. Seminars cover topics such as intellectual property for business, the trademark registration process, and the importance of buying authentic goods.

A broad cross-section of America's large corporations, small businesses, governmental agencies, and non-profit organizations will highlight valuable information about trademarks, from the various types of trademarks available to their benefits. Exhibitors at the National Trademark Expo will include: 5-hour ENERGY; 1000 Cranes, LLC; American Bar Association; American Girl, LLC; American Intellectual Property Law Association; BERG USA; Canon U.S.A., Inc.; Caterpillar Inc.; City of Falls Church (Virginia) Economic Development Authority; Girl Scouts of the USA; Hershey Chocolate & Confectionery Corporation (the Hershey Company); Hooray for Books!; Idaho Potato Commission; Indian Arts and Crafts Board, U.S. Department of the Interior; International AntiCounterfeiting Coalition (IACC); International Trademark Association—Unreal Campaign; Looshes Labs LLC; Microsoft; NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Innovative Technology Partnerships Office; National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center); NumbersAlive!; Rita's Ice, Custard, Happiness; Smithsonian Institution; Sweet Frog Premium Frozen Yogurt; The LEGO Group; The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communications Disorders; The Pepsom Group, Inc.; The United States Foundation for Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST); The University of Notre Dame du Lac; Uber Technologies; United Parcel Service Inc.; United States Air Force; U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Valvoline; Volcom, Inc.; YMCA of Metropolitan Washington; and Zoomph. Anson Williams, who starred in the television show Happy Days and now is an entrepreneur and director, will speak about the importance of trademarks to business at the opening ceremony.

On average, people encounter 1,500 trademarks each day. In a time of globalization, counterfeit goods pose an increasing threat to American businesses and jobs, and trademarks assist the public in discerning between authentic and counterfeit merchandise Counterfeit goods cost the United States billions of dollars and countless jobs annually, as well as undermine consumer confidence in brand integrity when purchasers encounter knock-off goods of inferior quality.

The first National Trademark Expo took place over 25 years ago in Washington, DC. Since then, the Expo has educated thousands of people on the importance of trademarks. I applaud the USPTO for its continued efforts to educate the public on the important role of trademarks and the benefits of federal registration through the Expo. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the USPTO, at this time when trademark protection and intellectual property rights play an increasingly important role in our global economy. And, I encourage the public and my fellow Members of Congress and staff to bring their family and friends to this free, family-friendly event.

IN RECOGNITION OF M. L. HARRIS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S 142ND ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation and leadership of M. L. Harris United Methodist Church in Columbus, Georgia, as the church observes its 142nd anniversary. The members of this parish will come together in a day of worship and celebration of this occasion on Sunday, October 26, 2014.

The origins of M. L. Harris can be traced back to 1872, when a group of like-minded individuals met regularly under grape arbors and anywhere else they could to praise and worship the Lord. These individuals met for an entire decade before being granted a plot of land which they could call their own by the Georgia General Assembly. The church was built at 640 6th Avenue in Columbus, Georgia and was named ''Simpson Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church'' after Bishop Matthew Simpson, a prominent bishop of the time.

The Simpson Chapel continued to operate for nearly a century, until the congregation's leaders decided it was time to make a change if the Church was going to continue to grow and prosper. Through the faith, effort and charitable donations of many dedicated souls, a new church building was erected within three years at Bedford St. and Old Cusseta Road in Columbus. The church was renamed to ''M. L. Harris Methodist Church,'' in honor of the wonderfully generous contributions made by Bishop Marquis L. Harris over the course of the church's construction.

At the time M. L. Harris was built, African-American congregations were not recognized as part of the general conference, and thus were grouped together in the Central Jurisdiction. M. L. Harris remained in the separate conference until 1967, at the culmination of the Civil Rights Movement, when the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist Church merged into the United Methodist Church. One of the terms of the merger ordered the end of segregation within the denomination, and M. L. Harris subsequently became M. L. Harris United Methodist Church.

M. L. Harris would see many great pastors over the years, but perhaps the most notable was Reverend William B. Howell, whose strong leadership enabled tremendous growth within the congregation, reaching a record 373 members. During his tenure, many changes were made to the church, including structural renovations and the implementation of youth programs. Today, the church continues to grow under the spiritual guidance of Reverend Walter C. Lundy, Sr.

The story of M. L. Harris United Methodist Church, which began as a small group of people worshipping in the shade of a grape arbor 142 years ago and has grown into a modest, yet successful congregation, stands out as an exemplary display of the dedication and perseverance of a faithful and united group of people who put all their love and trust in the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to M. L. Harris United Methodist Church in Columbus, Georgia for their long history of coming together through the good and difficult times to praise and worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The congregation may be small in number, but it is great in spirit and truly lives up to the church's motto that declares M. L. Harris as ''The Church Where Everybody is Somebody and God is ALL.''

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF SENATOR EDUARDO BHATIA

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Eduardo Bhatia. Mr. Bhatia is a Puerto Rican politician and Senator.

Bhatia obtained his Bachelor's degree in Government and Public Policy from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs in 1986. In May 1986, Bhatia was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study law, economics and politics in Santiago, Chile for one year. He graduated from Stanford Law School in June 1990 where he founded and edited the ''Stanford Journal of Law and Policy'', an academic publication with an emphasis on the development of new laws and public policy. He is admitted to practice law in Florida, Washington D.C. and The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

After graduating, Bhatia worked for a year as a Judicial Officer for Judge Levin H. Campbell, at the United States Court of Appeals for

the First Circuit in Boston, Massachusetts. From 1991 to 1992, he was the Chief of Staff for the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, Jaime Fuster, in Washington, D.C. Bhatia is also the former Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration in Washington D.C. As the Executive Director, he officially represented the Governor of Puerto Rico on important issues affecting the Commonwealth.

Bhatia was elected as an official Senate candidate in the Popular Democratic Party (Partido Popular Democrático or PPD) primary on March 9, 2008. At the 2008 general elections, Bhatia won one of only five Senate seats obtained by his party.

At the 2012 primaries, Bhatia won the most votes, securing his spot for the general elections. He then won the most votes of all the PPD candidates to the Senate. After the win, Bhatia was elected by his colleagues as the fifteenth President of the Senate of Puerto Rico.

In 2013, Bhatia served as Co-Chair of the Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments (CSG–ERC). Later that year, he was elected as President of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL), becoming the first Senate President to hold the title. Bhatia is also a board member of several organizations, including the Council of State Governments (CSG) and the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO).

I am honored to recognize Senator Eduardo Bhatia, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his leadership and commitment to serving the Puerto Rican and Hispanic-American communities.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District. Since 1964, the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District has actively developed and implemented specialized projects and educational programs to improve, protect, and preserve Suffolk County's most treasured natural resources.

Suffolk County's thriving agriculture has been assisted by the conservation efforts of the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District in partnership with the local communities and landowners, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Long Island Farm Bureau, the Cornell Cooperative Extension and Research Lab, the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the New York Association of Conservation Districts.

As a result of this collaboration, Suffolk County leads the rest of our great state in market value of crop production, including sod, grapes, nursery stock, aquaculture, and specialty crops. The County can also be proud of flourishing agricultural tourism, known for attracting thousands of visitors to wineries, greenhouses, and seasonal pumpkin picking.

Consisting of over 600 farms spanning 35,000 acres, Suffolk County farms form the pillar of the East End economy and contribute millions of dollars to the Long Island and New York state economies, supporting local jobs and igniting economic growth across the region. This success is sustainable with the help of the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District and can help further propel Long Island's continuing economic recovery.

Mr. Speaker, helping local farmers secure federal aid and educating them about building green infrastructure are just some of the many critically important functions of the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District, which remains dedicated to the success of Long Island farmers and small businesses, and why it is an honor to offer my congratulations on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2258, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2014.

Mr. Speaker, it is an undeniable truth that our military veterans deserve our deepest gratitude for the courage and valor they demonstrated while defending the United States of America.

One way the nation can express its deepest appreciation for our service men and women is by assisting disabled veterans with compensation and financial support.

The VA estimated that it will provide compensation to over 4 million beneficiaries in FY 2014.

Among the veterans estimated to receive such compensation are:

136,897 World War II veterans

140,169 Korean War veterans

1,327,348 Vietnam-era veterans

1,546,030 Gulf War-era veterans

695,574 veterans who served during peacetime

Close to half of the nearly 2 million veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have or will seek compensation for service-related injuries, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

We must be certain that disability compensation provides adequate assistance to veterans, and this bill does so by increasing the amounts paid by the same cost-of-living adjustment that will be payable to Social Security recipients.

Mr. Speaker, not only does S. 2258 benefit our injured veterans, it also helps the families of these injured service members by providing increased compensation for dependents and surviving spouses.

By passing S. 2258, countless veterans and their families would have financial stress alleviated thanks to increased rates of veterans' disability compensation.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge all members to support the passage of S. 2258 to ensure that all of our courageous veterans receive adequate disability compensation.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BRENDAN BERNARD FRANCIS McKAY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a very heavy heart that I share this obituary of an outstanding young American, Mr. Brendan Bernard Francis McKay.

Brendan, 30, passed away Monday, September 8, 2014, in Rome, Italy, following a tragic accident.

An AmeriCorps volunteer, artist, multi-instrumentalist, snowboarder, world traveler, counselor, historian, Ph.D. candidate, and Seanchai in the Irish storytelling tradition, Brendan was born June 30, 1984 in Summit, New Jersey, the second of Bernard and Mazy McKay's four children. He grew up in Alexandria and McLean, Virginia, where he graduated from McLean High School in 2002.

Brendan began undergraduate studies at Virginia Commonwealth University, later attended Western Connecticut State University and John Cabot University in Rome, and in 2012 graduated magna cum laude from Rhode Island College with a Bachelor's in History. Most recently, Brendan completed his Master's degree in International Relations at St. John's University in Rome, Italy in June 2014.

Throughout his teens and early twenties, Brendan struggled with addiction issues. With the support of loved ones, he participated in therapeutic and rehabilitation programs in Utah, New York, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Kansas. In 2008, Brendan emerged from this period secure in his recovery, and with a renewed passion for education, adventure, and experience which would come to define the rest of his life.

From 2008–2010, Brendan served with AmeriCorps as a volunteer with Big Brothers, Big Sisters in Worland, Wyoming. Within a matter of months he was promoted to Vice President of Development, going on to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars on behalf of at-risk youth, before leaving to accept a position as an AmeriCorps Program Manager in Rhode Island. Before leaving Wyoming he was urged by locals in Worland to stay and run for mayor. He was flattered and seriously considered it.

Brendan is remembered fondly by his loved ones in the U.S. and around the world for his legendary sense of humor, a classic Irish storyteller vividly sharing his many adventures. He ran with the bulls in Pamplona, Spain. He rode a hot air balloon through the Atlas Mountains of Morocco. He skied across the Swiss-French border in the Alps, not entirely on purpose. Completing an Asian journey that included Malaysia, Cambodia and Nepal, he returned to Rome over the Himalayas and Mt. Everest. He crisscrossed the United States by car, camped in the badlands of North Dakota, and lived on a mountain in Southern California. During academic travel to North Korea he became one of only a small number of Americans to have seen the demilitarized zone from the north side.

Brendan was also intellectually brilliant. He was an enthusiastic reader, with particular interest in philosophy, history, physics, and comparative religion. His collection of unusual tattoos included the Fibonacci sequence on his arm. His creativity and humor led to unique inventions; on one occasion, Brendan created what he called a ''Scrabbanjelo,'' a playable banjo which he constructed from the wooden box of a Scrabble set—a game at which he was renowned as unbeatable.

At the time of his passing, he was looking forward to his doctoral work at King's College in London. His studies were to focus on the little-told story of the town of Fiumi on the Italy-Croatia border, which formed its own independent state in World War I in defiance of the warring countries around it.

Brendan's 6′ 6″ physical presence was the outer manifestation of an unusually humble, sensitive, self-deprecating person, whose generosity, kindness, and compassion for friends and family alike will never be forgotten. His beloved dog, Anastasia, is the physical embodiment of that kindness. Brendan had encountered a group of drug dealers about to shoot a young puppy for which they had no use. He persuaded them to let him adopt her in exchange for what little money he had in his pocket, a meager five dollars. For more than a decade, Anastasia has been a cherished member of the McKay family, displaying a level of emotional intelligence that is extraordinary to find in an animal.

Brendan was not immune to accidents, and indeed had scars going back to toddlerhood. But he always stood up, brushed himself off, and went at life again, charging boldly at every experience the world could offer. His enthusiasm for adventure inspired all who knew him.

Brendan is survived by his parents, Bernard and Mary, his two brothers, Patrick and Conor, his sister, Rosemary, sister-in-law Nora, and his beloved, Camilla Valeriano. He will be sorely missed.

HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERAN ARTHUR NAGLER

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a decorated World War II veteran, Mr. Arthur Nagler, who lives in my Congressional district, and to point out a serious flaw in the ability of veterans to obtain medals they deserve for the service they gave to our country.

Arthur served our country in some of the fiercest battles of World War II. After his arrival in France following the Normandy invasion, he was a medic with the 170th General Hospital where he saved the lives of many of his fellow soldiers. In recognition of his service, he was awarded several medals, including the Legion of Honor by the Republic of France.

I am so very proud of Arthur, as we all should be. I want to highlight a point of supreme irony in his case, however. During one battle, as Mr. Nagler worked in his hospital tent saving the lives of wounded soldiers, an enemy bomb landed nearby, seriously wounding him from shrapnel and knocking him unconscious.

Because of the critical need for doctors, Mr. Nagler was revived, his wounds were ''stitched up,'' as he puts it, and he was sent on with his fellow medics to continue saving other soldiers' lives. Unfortunately, any records of his wounds apparently do not exist. He concedes that, in the confusion, the records of his injuries may not have been recorded or the records may have been lost as the hospital was hurriedly moved to the next battlefield. However, there is a distinct possibility that a record was made of his injury and it was destroyed in the great fire that swept through a section of the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis in 1973. The fire destroyed nearly 50 years worth of records of those who served our nation in uniform from 1912–1959.

That is why I rise today, Mr. Speaker. In my 21 years in Congress, I have been contacted many times by veterans seeking not just medals, but the records they need to prove their eligibility for disability benefits and pensions. I do not fault the army, as they must work with what records they have to give veterans everything they deserve. Still, after sacrificing so much for our nation and its freedoms, I feel there must be some way to correct this situation. After 60 years of trying, Arthur Nagler has given up hope of ever getting the Purple Heart that he rightly deserves. Everyone should consider the supreme irony of a man who spent World War II saving the lives of other wounded American soldiers, is then wounded himself, and has not been awarded a Purple Heart.

I respectfully ask that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle work together to fix this absurd situation, not just for Arthur Nagler, but for all veterans in similar situations. Let us give these brave men and women the respect they deserve.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 HONOREES OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY BRANCH OF THE NAACP

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2014 Honorees of the Fairfax County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The Fairfax Branch is recognized as the NAACP's first rural chapter. In 1915, a few brave African American citizens in Falls Church, Virginia, fought a proposed ordinance that would have segregated housing. They called themselves the Colored Citizens Protective League (CCPL) and the group evolved to become the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP.

Each year, the Fairfax County NAACP honors several deserving individuals and organizations that have shown extraordinary support of the Branch or the community. I am honored to submit the names of the following 2014 Community Service Award winners:

Fairfax County Democratic Committee Election Law and Voter Protection Committee. The Election Law and Voter Protection (ELVP) Committee strives to make sure every vote is counted and that proposed legislation and procedures affecting voting rights are fair and appropriate. Every election, ELVP members monitor voting precincts and help make sure each citizen can fully and fairly exercise his or her right to vote, regardless of political preferences.

Jill Turner—Program Manager, Intel Computer Clubhouse, Gum Springs Community Center. Ms. Turner works to change the mindset of young people who come from economically disadvantaged families. She teaches creative writing, computer skills, etiquette, poetry writing, and has formed a book club. Through her leadership, some teens have become leaders and have formed additional clubs, specializing in their own interests. Ms. Turner recently established a mentoring program. Participants discuss issues such as domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, homelessness, drugs, and other issues facing our youth.

Danielle Blunt—Girls Inspired and Ready to Lead, Inc. (GIRL). Founded by Ms. Blunt in 2010, GIRL is a nonprofit organization dedicated to mentoring and empowering today's girls for future success through academic excellence, leadership skills, community service, a healthy lifestyle, and self-esteem. In 2014, Ms. Blunt partnered with George Mason University's College of Science STEM Accelerator Program to create a STEM summer camp for middle school girls of color and one for elementary school boys and girls. It also gives me great pleasure to recognize the following recipients of this year's President's Awards: Supervisor John Cook, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (Braddock District); Captain Everett A. Lewis, U.S. Air Force (Ret.), Executive Committee, Alexandria NAACP; Colonel Ed Roessler, Chief, Fairfax County Police Department.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2014 honorees of the Fairfax County NAACP and thanking them for their tremendous contributions to our youth and our community.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, this continuing resolution (H.J. Res. 124) ensures that there will be no government shutdown and that the men and women of America's armed forces and diplomatic service will have the resources they need in Afghanistan and beyond to protect the nation from the dangers of terrorism. This resolution continues funding on a temporary basis at fiscal year 2014 levels, but it does not provide the final, full-year spending levels for the government. For war-related spending, the resolution provides for an interim rate of spending that is over $26 billion more than the President's June 26, 2014 amended request for these purposes for fiscal year 2015. At this stage, there is a great deal of uncertainty about the precise needs for these activities.

The Budget Committee has jurisdiction over the use of the statutory authority that permits for spending in excess of the discretionary caps for funding designated for Overseas

Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism. On a bipartisan basis, the Budget Committee has expressed concern that the OCO/GWOT budget has been misused by both this Administration and the previous Administration. In addition, Congress has generally gone along with using these funds for purposes outside of OCO/GWOT requirements. The Committee highlighted this concern in the report accompanying the FY 2015 budget resolution.

While I support this interim funding measure and want to ensure our armed forces have the resources they need for these purposes, together with the Committee's ranking Democratic member Mr. VAN HOLLEN, I will work to ensure that the final full-year appropriation for these purposes funds only those requirements that are closely related to the incremental, non-enduring costs of our overseas engagement in Afghanistan and the broader Middle East.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ELECTRIC CHARGING ADVANCEMENT REFORM ACT

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, my home of Los Angeles unfortunately is the nation's smoggiest region of the country. We are surrounded by mountains and have the highest per capita ownership of cars. The Los Angeles region has made great improvements in our air quality. In the last 15 years, the number of dirty air days has dropped by 38 percent. Still—we have the worst air quality in the nation. The American Lung Association ranks the Los Angeles region as number one in the nation for ozone pollution and in the top five for particulate matter pollution.

This results in many health issues including higher numbers of children with asthma and significant lung function problems in normal, healthy people.

We do love our cars in Los Angeles, and the pollution from these cars is a key cause of our air quality problems. Los Angeles could drastically improve its air quality if more of those cars were plug in vehicles. However there are simply not enough charging stations available for this to be feasible.

As an owner of an all-electric Nissan Leaf, I know all too well that there is a lack of charging stations. I have personally experienced range anxiety. There have been times when driving home I have had to turn off the lights, radio, and air conditioning to ensure that I can make it home because there were no charging stations nearby. Los Angeles is one of the largest consumers of electric vehicles in the country. But, I believe people would buy more electric vehicles if charging stations were readily available.

Today, I am introducing the Electric Charging Advancement Reform Act to encourage more electric vehicles on our roads, which will result in clean air improvements and energy independence. This is an act integral to revolutionizing the accessibility of plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) to potential drivers. My bill would reauthorize the electric vehicle recharging property credit and make available to both consumers and businesses a tax credit of up to $100,000 for the installation of charging stations.

No one driving a gas-powered car has to worry about finding a gas station before they get to their destination. Let us make sure that electric charging stations are just as easily accessible and convenient as the gas stations that are at every major intersection in our cities and off our major freeways.

HONORING MARY BETTY MINERO

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of New Mexico resident Mary Betty Minero, who passed away on July 15, 2014.

Betty was a lifelong resident of Barelas and a regular at Barelas Coffee House, which is where I first met her during my campaign for Congress in 2012. Betty had an outsized personality and an exuberant joy for life. She and I made a connection the instant she approached me, clutching her Betty Boo lunch pail, for a hug. Betty made me feel special, the same way she treated dozens of New Mexicans she embraced with equal enthusiasm each day. Neighbors, business leaders and government workers were always greeted by Betty as she worked the crowd before settling in at table 9A with a spoon in hand and half-and-half ready for her coffee.

Betty loved to dance. When she wasn't dancing with customers in the tight entryway at the coffee house, Betty could be found each Tuesday at Ned's, where her daughter, Geri Lucero, would take her for a night of dancing and local music.

Betty loved her close-knit family that included her husband, Ambrosio Minero, and their three daughters: Geri Lucero, Gloria Gutierrez and Betty Jo Martin. She also treasured her encounters with everyone she met. Her daughter said Betty never considered anyone a stranger, and if you talked to her long enough, she concluded you were probably related. She liked to tell people she thought she was 21 years old—before looking into the mirror and realizing she was really a young 89.

She was a parishioner at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Barelas and she was known to pray for the people she met, particularly those who were sick. Shortly before her death, Betty mourned the untimely death of her great-grandson, Jacob Gutierrez, a football star at Del Norte High School.

Betty's sincerity and genuine appreciation for others has had a profound effect on everyone who was fortunate enough to enjoy Betty's company and her spirit lives on in our community. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends. May the memory of Betty live on in our hearts.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARIES OF THE SHIDOGAKUIN MARTIAL ARTS DOJO AND THE SHIDOGAKUIN WASHINGTON KENDO DOJO

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Shidogakuin Martial Arts Dojo on the occasion of its 30th anniversary and the Shidogakuin Washington Kendo Dojo (Washinkan) on its 20th Anniversary.

Kendo, meaning ''Way of the sword,'' is a Japanese martial art derived from 16th Century traditional swordsmanship, using bamboo swords and protective armor for training. This sport is widely practiced throughout Japan, the United States, and many other nations around the world. Kendo is a physically and mentally challenging activity that combines martial arts practices and values with strenuous physical activity. It is great exercise, but it also is much more than a sport. The purpose of practicing Kendo is to mold the mind and body, to cultivate a vigorous spirit, and, through correct and rigid training, to strive for improvement in both technique and personal development.

In 1984, Mr. Shozo Kato established the Shidogakuin Kendo training school in New York City where both students and teachers were taught to learn and grow. In 1993 James Yan and Hiroaki Suzuki, with guidance from Shozo Kato, expanded Shidogakuin to the Washington, DC region by establishing a Kendo dojo at the National Institutes of Health to teach adults and children. The Shidogakuin Washington Kendo Dojo (Washinkan) is now based in Herndon, Virginia, in the 11th Congressional District.

The goal of the Washinkan Dojo is to provide teachers with necessary technical skills and teaching strategies; to implement the protocols to create an environment of professional courtesy, honor, and mutual respect; to provide the facilities necessary to learn and practice; to create a safe, friendly, family-oriented atmosphere; to inform the community that there is an opportunity to learn and practice the sword martial arts; to prepare students for practice, competition and advancement testing; and to prepare students for leadership in the dojo and the larger community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Shidogakuin Kendo Dojo and Shozo Kato on its 30th anniversary and the Washinkan Dojo and James Yan on its 20th anniversary and in thanking them for their service to the youth in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF WILLIAM J. DIAZ HERNANDEZ

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize William J. Diaz. A native of Cumana, Venezuela, William was raised in Caracas. From a young age, William naturally cultivated

friendships and supported humanitarian causes. As a young leader, he was active in student council throughout his schooling. William was the recipient of a scholarship which allowed him to attend the University of Texas at Austin, where he received his Master's Degree in Mass Communications in 1976.

William previously served as an Educational Attaché to the Venezuelan Embassy in Paris, France and the General Coordinator of the G.M.A. Foundation. William was also the founder and president of several community organizations in Venezuela.

In 1989, William moved to Orlando, Florida, where he lives with his wife and four children. Since then, he has been very active within the Latino community, advising and counseling nonprofit organizations. An active community leader and incisive journalist, William has a passion to help his fellow citizens through life's struggles.

William has been an on-air personality for decades and a columnist with several publications. He is always available to individuals or community organizations in need of media support, especially those who seek support for social justice issues.

William's activism to promote Latin-American political development has won him recognition within the Latino community. He currently has a daily radio show, ''Cara a Cara con William Diaz,'' which reaches eighteen counties. He is also the founder of Casa de Venezuela and the Made in Venezuela Business Club.

I am honored to recognize William Diaz, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his contributions to the Central Florida community.

HONORING LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR THEIR SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the following law enforcement personnel who have recently been honored by the Horseshoe Curve Benevolent Association for their tireless service and continued willingness to put their lives on the line to protect our communities. This year's honorees are Sergeant Jonathan E. Smith, Clarke County Director of Emergency Communications Pam Hess, Deputy Bryan Smith, Corporal Bradley W. Davidson, Officer Terry W. Fritts, Sergeant Frank Myrtle, Officer Brock Justice, Officer Tommy Gardner, Lieutenant Wally Stotlemeyer, K–9 Officer Kota and his partner Corporal Brittney Kotynski-Neer.

Sergeant Jonathan E. Smith has played a pivotal role in the implementation of the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP–2), a joint federal, state and local jurisdiction effort to better train first responders as well as traffic incident and management support staff. As the lead instructor for Northwestern Virginia, Region 2, Sgt. Smith has conducted more than 30 sessions of the program, instructing more than 900 people, in addition to continuing his supervisory responsibilities as a Virginia State Police officer. His efforts have brought nationwide praise to the quality of Virginia law enforcement.

Director of Emergency Communications Pam Hess has been with the Clarke County Sheriff's office since 1986. Today, she plays a crucial role as supervisor of the county's 911 center and de facto project manager for monitoring and upgrading the county's sophisticated communications equipment. In addition to these responsibilities, Director Hess still works shifts as an emergency operator and is on-call every hour of every day.

Deputy Bryan Smith has been a real asset to the Frederick County Sheriff's Office. Earlier this year, Deputy Smith played a critical role in resuscitating a motorist who was thought to have died in order to transport him to the Winchester Medical Center. Although the crash victim was beyond medical help, Deputy Smith's efforts gave him the chance to live.

Corporal Bradley W. Davidson has served in the Winchester Sheriffs Office since 2006 and was recently promoted to Corporal in January. Bradley has trained many of his colleagues on responding to active shooter situations. He also manages the Sheriffs office's external functions. He is known around town as a family man as well as a man of integrity.

Officer Terry Fritts has filled many roles in the Berryville Police Department, including providing technology expertise to investigating a bank robbery earlier this year, organizing Berryville's National Night Out and voluntarily handling difficult situations with citizens experiencing emotional crises. Throughout all this, he has been a great resource to Berryville and his colleagues in the police department.

Sergeant Frank Myrtle of the Winchester Police Department has played a critical role in investigating and seeking successful indictments for two recent felony murder cases involving child victims. He has also taken the lead in the effort to address prostitution in Winchester by leading countless sting operations.

Office Brock Justice has been an indispensable part of the Mount Weather Police Department. Officer Justice was trained in active shooter response tactics at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and has extensively studied past incidents, such as the Navy Yard shooting last year. He has designed and implemented active shooter practice scenarios for Mount Weather police, fire and EMS services to hone their skills and identify areas for improvement.

Officer Tommy Gardner serves the Northwestern Regional Jail. On the night of April 24, Officer Gardner, while off-duty, stepped above and beyond his call to duty and successfully negotiated the de-escalation of a dangerous domestic dispute in his neighborhood involving a firearm. He did his community a great service by his heroic actions.

Lieutenant Wally Stotlemeyer serves with the Winchester Police Department and has been working with the Northwestern Virginia Regional Drug and Gang Task Force. He has exhibited tremendous leadership in overseeing the North End team as it manages the recent spike in regional Heroin overdoses—part of the drug epidemic that threatens communities across the United States.

Finally, K–9 Officer Kota was injured during the brave pursuit of two suspects in an attic. I join his partner, Winchester Police Department Corporal Brittney Kotynski-Neer in honoring Kota for his good work and welcome him back to duty at the Winchester Police Department.

I am proud to join with the Horseshoe Benevolent Association-which has been honoring local law enforcement since 2004—to recognize these officers for their bravery, dedication and strength. We owe them a sincere debt of gratitude for their service to the 10th District and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I respectfully submit a speech given by Mr. Jim Wink at the Horseshoe Curve Benevolent Association's September 13th Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner.

LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION, DINNER 13 SEPTEMBER 2014

Good evening: My name is Jim Wink. On behalf of the Horse Shoe Curve Benevolent Association—I want to welcome everybody and thank you for coming out to recognize those who put their lives on the line to protect us.

Before we begin to serve dinner, please stand for a short prayer by Rev. Canon Dwight L. Brown, Grace Episcopal Church, Berryville.

Please join me in the Pledge of Alligence to our Flag.

The purpose of tonight's gathering is to enjoy the company, the food, the music, and—most important—to recognize local police and secuirty officers who's dedication to serve their community—that's us—has been outstanding.

First: Let us recognize our guests. With us tonight are:

Each of the officers recognized tonight will get not only our respect and thanks, but also a plaque from the HSC Benevolent Association, a certificate of appreciation from the VA House of Delegates—compliments of Del. Randy Minchew, and U.S. Congressional Recognition—compliments of Congressman Frank Wolf. They will also get outstanding photos of tonights activities compliments of Matt Baker.

VIRGINIA STATE POLICE

Sergeant Jonathan E. Smith

Sergeant Smith is devoted to the implementation of the SHRP–2—which is the strategic highway research program in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In conjunction with the VA Department Of Transportation, VA Department of Fire Programs, US Federal Highway Administration and multiple local partners involved in traffic operations, this curriculum was implemented in the Commonwealth of VA as a pilot ''Train-the-Trainer'' program for all First Responders.

The four hour course is nationally recognized traffic incident management responder training that is offered to all emergency responders and also those personnel who support traffic incident management operations. An important goal of the program is to reduce congestion through incident reduction, management, and response in order to improve travel times for both commuters and freight throughout VA.

SGT. Smith was tasked with being the lead instructor for the Northwestern portion of VA (Region 2). He has coordinated and jointly conducted 34 sessions of this training program to over 900 attendees in various locations across his assigned region. The work involved in the coordination of these classes include, but not limited to, arrangement of the training locations, advertisement of all classes, registration of each attendee, and following up with personalized certificates of completion.

SGT. Smith has forged relationships and gained the support and respect of many federal, state, and local agencies thought the development of this program, which has greatly enhanced the department's image by all cooperating agencies. Although he has dedicated numerous hours (both duty and

personal) to this program, he has maintained all supervisory responsibilities.

SGT. Smith, congratulations and thank you for being there for us.

CLARKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Pam Hess

Pam Hess is the director of emergency communications for Clarke County. She has been employed by the County Sheriff's Office since 1986. She is responsible for supervising the 911 Center, which includes the dispatching of all emergency services in Clarke County. This responsibility requires that Pam sometimes assumes the role of communications operator and work a shift, a duty that she takes on without complaint. Pam has become, by default, the project manager for all communications upgrades with our 911 center. She takes care of purchasing of complicated telephone equipment, and oversees the installation of this equipment in addition to all of the radio systems. She is really on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to answer questions from staff, and routinely act as a mechanic in keeping communications going. Pam, sounds like you are doing it all!

Pam: Congratulations, and thank you for being there for us.

FREDERICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Deputy Bryan Smith

On April 17, 2014, Trooper Joshua Myers of the VA State Police and Deputy Bryan Smith were involved in an incident where an apparent deceased motorist was resuscitated thanks to their quick actions after a single vehicle crash on the interstate. Upon VA state trooper Myers arrival no fire or rescue personnel were on the scene. Trooper Myers attempted to make contact with the driver of the tractor but he was unconscious and partially on the floor board. There was no breathing or pulse. Trooper Myers began to administer chest compressions and rescue breathing on the subject. Deputy Smith also stopped to provide assistance. He immediately relieved Trooper Myers of performing CPR and continue to sustain the subject while EMS was placing monitoring devices on him to include an AED. He continued for several minutes. The subject was transported to the Winchester Medical Center where he passed away next day. If not for Trooper Myers and Deputy Smith, he would have died in the truck. Deputy Smith excels in his every day job with the Sheriff's Office. He sets the bar high for fellow officers to follow.

Deputy Smith, congratulations and thank you for being there for us.

WINCHESTER SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Corporal Bradley W. Davidson (Harley)

Corporal Davidson has been with the Sheriff's Office since January 2006. He was promoted to Corporal in January 2014. Corporal Bradley is in charge of all outside Sheriff's Office functions such as evictions, levy's, distress warrants and paper service. Bradley has played a very important role within the Sheriff's Office to ensure that the office continues to move forward in a positive way. Bradley is a true profesional in dealing with the public with delicate situations. Bradley is a person that can be counted on to answer the call when situations arise that extra help is needed.

Bradley attended active Shooter Instructor School, then came back and prepared lesson plans and started training the Sheriff's Office. He is currently working on mass training and drills for the Joint Judicial Building. Corporal Bradley is married with one little girl. Bradley, in his off time is a large supporter of WVU football and he spends a lot of his time in the Fall hunting. His other interest is Harley Davidson Motorcycles. He is a good family man as demonstrated by his desk area full of family pictures. Corporal Davidson is a person that the City of Winchester can be as proud of as we in the office are. Bradley is a true professional and friend that we in the office all enjoy coming to work with.

Corporal Davidson, congratulations and thank you for being there for us.

BERRYVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officer Terry W. Fritts

Officer Fritts has served with Berryville since 2007 and holds a variety of certifications including defensive tactics and Speed Measurement Instructor, field training officer, police cyclist, and intoxilyzer operator. Terry is always willing to assist his fellow officers with assignments and has advanced skills in dealing with technology issues that has proven to be a tremendous asset to the department. He constantly looks for ways to develop and refine procedures within the department so they are more user-friendly and efficient. There does not seem to be any problem associated with technology that Terry is not equipped to tackle.

Officer Fritts proved to be instrumental in the investigaton associated with a bank robbery that occurred in Berryville this year. While he was not the initial officer involved, he asserted himself as part of the Berryville Police Department team and worked diligently to collect and compile information that ultimately led to the apprehension of four suspects that are currently awaiting trial. This is an example of the type of dedication and drive that Terry routinely displays.

Another attribute is his willingness to be involved with the community that he serves. For the past several years he has coordinated the National Night Out event. The event is a showcase of community resources dedicated to public safety. Each year Terry makes it bigger and better. This past August Terry again pulled off a fantastic event that displayed how community policing in a small town can bring us all together for a safer community. In addition to this event, Terry often spends time listening and educating local business owners and members of the community while patrolling the downtown district. By having a rapport with those in the community he is often the officer that people ask for by name when they have issues or questions. He also takes a special interest in handling situations where a person finds themselves in an emotional crisis and is in need of assistance. Officer Fritts is very aware of the resources that are available for those in a mental crisis and those who could benefit from community resources that are not directly supplied by law enforcement. He works very closely with representatives from Social Services and often takes part in Family Team Meetings with a multidisciplinary team that works with a family to identify problems and offer solutions in order to improve quality of life issues. According to his boss, Officer Terry Fritts has done a tremendous job representing the Berryville Police Department in a professional manner.

Officer Fritts, congratulations and thank you for being there for us.

WINCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sergeant Frank Myrtle

Sergeant Myrtle has been instrumental in leading two felonious death investigations within the past year. Both of these investigations involved very young children. One was a high profile case involving a child who was the victim of a house fire that was intentionally set by his mother. The other case, which has yet to go to trial, involved a child who was allegedly assaulted by her mother and who subsequently died of those injuries. Sgt. Myrtle took the lead in both investigations and successfully sought indictments for felony murder in both cases. The first mother was convicted and received a 36 year sentence for her crimes. Sgt. Myrtle invested countless hours of investigation in both cases. He did this while taking on other cases and maintaining his administrative duties as a supervisor in the Criminal Investigations Division.

In addition, Sgt. Myrtle has made eradicating the crime of prostitution in Winchester a priority. He has recognized that prostitution leads to the more serious offenses and has spent untold hours conducting sting operations to arrest both Johns and Prostitutes operating in the city. According to his superiors, Sgt. Frank Myrtle's hard work and dedication to the citizens of Winchester and to his co-workers should be recognized.

Sergeant Myrtle, congratulations and thank you for being there for us.

MOUNT WEATHER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officer Brock Justice

According to Brock's superiors, he has continually shown himself as a professional police officer displaying the highest degree of competence and dedication to the mission at Mount Weather. As one of the department's officers that have completed the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's Active Shooter Instructor Course, Brock has worked tirelessly to improve the department's capability for effectively responding to and mitigating the impacts of an active shooter incident. He spends countless hours reviewing after action reports of shooting incidents such as the shooting at the Washington Navy Yard last year capturing ways for improving the department's training, equipment, tactics and procedures for such incidents.

Early in fiscal year 2014 Officer Justice developed a challenging, reality-based training exercise to assess Mount Weather Police, Fire and EMS responses to an active shooter incident. The exercise utilized evaluators from outside agencies and allowed the department to identify areas for improvement starting with individual officer skills all the way through incident management. He has also conducted several classes for FEMA headquarters personnel and other tenant organizations at Mount Weather. These classes focused on teaching personnel on how to react to a shooting incident in their respective work areas.

Officer Justice, congratulations and thank you for being there for us.

NORTHWESTERN REGIONAL JAIL

Officer Tommy Gardner

On April 24, 2014 Officer Tommy Gardner was headed home after completing his Tour of Duty. It was approximately 1830 hours when he arrived at his residence. As he was getting ready to enter his home he noticed a crowd of people gathered at a nearby residence. Tommy walked over to see if he could be of assistance. When he arrived at the nearby residence there was a woman on the porch. She had called 911 on her cell phone. The woman informed Officer Gardner that the male had been involved in a domestic and that he had a gun in his back pocket. Officer Gardner noticed the outline of what appeared to be a gun. He started talking to the male. He instructed the male individual to put down the gun. After several commands the male complied and laid the weapon on the trunk of a vehicle he was standing beside. Officer Gardner quickly approached the male, ordered him to lay face down on the ground. He then placed his knee in the center of the male's back detaining him until

WPD arrived on scene approximately 30 seconds later. The male was arrested.

Officer Tommy Gardner's handling of this situation is remarkable for several reasons. First, he went above and beyond his Call to Duty. He is employed as a Correctional Officer at Northwestern. He was also off duty at the time. He was under no obligaton to become involved in the situation. His strong character and desire to help those in his community propelled his actions. Second, Officer Gardner showed exceptional courage. When he walked over to the crowd of people he was informed that the individual was under extreme duress and had a handgun in his possession. He could have simply done nothing and waited for the police to arrive.

Instead, Officer Gardner chose to establish a dialogue and de-escalate the situation even though he knew he would be in harm's way. Officer Gardner's actions on the date personify those of the law enforcement community who chose to put the safety of the citizens above their own.

Officer Tommy Gardner, congratulations and thank you for being there for us.

NW DRUG TASK FORCE

Lt. Wally Stotlemeyer

Wally Stotlemeyer is a Lt. with the Winchester Police Department currently assigned duty with the NW Virginia Regional Drug and Gang Task Force. The recent spike in heroin overdoses has put a tremendous strain on the resources of the task force. A large number of the deaths have occurred in the Region Wally and the North End Team is responsible for. Wally is the supervisor of the team and he has exhibited tremendous leadership skills in managing the increase in their cases. Practicing leadership from the front, Wally regularly appears on the scene of the tragic events and makes sure that these cases receive the proper attention to insure our valley is safe. In addition, Wally is always present at meetings where his opinion matters. He is truly working this epidemic from both ends and deserves to be recognized for his efforts.

Lt. Wally Stotlemeyer, congratulations and thank you for being there for us.

WINCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

K–9 Officer Kota

Cpl. Brittney Kotynski-Neer

Officer Kota has been with the Winchester Police Department since May, 2009. On January 3rd of this year, Kota was injured while helping apprehend two suspects hiding an attic crawl space during a burglary. He fell eight feet through the ceiling to the floor below and broke his right front leg and injured his ''wrist''. Despite his injuries, he climbed up a flight of stairs to return to Cpl. Brittney's side in the attic. Kota returned to work last week.

Officer Kota, congratulatons and thank you for being there for us.

That, ladies and gentleman, highlights how lucky we citizens of Northern Virginia are given the outstanding people we have protecting us. Thank you for coming and don't forget them.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, to keep the government open, the House is considering a continuing resolution (H.J. Res. 124) that permits government agencies to continue spending at the 2014 level through December 11, 2014. As a result, it allows a rate of overseas contingency operations spending at the Department of Defense, Department of State, and other agencies that if sustained over the entire fiscal year would total $92 billion. This sum exceeds what the Administration requested for overseas contingency operations for 2015 by $26 billion. Budget Committee Chairman PAUL RYAN and I agree that this bill should not be interpreted as endorsing the expansion of overseas contingency operations spending above what our military commanders say is needed to support our troops engaged in war operations. Congress will revisit the full-year funding needs for overseas contingency operations at a future date, including whatever resources may be necessary to counter emerging threats, including those ISIL poses. Over the course of the CR period, the Administration should spend OCO funding at a rate that will still allow for full-year funding at no higher than the level military commanders say is needed for 2015.

The OCO budget has been misused to get around discretionary funding caps over the years. Billions of dollars of non-war related activities have been funded in the OCO budget. For 2014, Congress shifted $9 billion of non-war activities into the OCO budget so it could free up funds within the budget caps. Over 2001 through 2014, Pentagon OCO cost reports indicate that $71 billion of non-war funding was provided through war appropriations.

This is a problem that both Chairman RYAN and I have been looking at in the Budget Committee. We both agree that the OCO budget should only be used to fund those requirements that are related to the transitory, non-recurring costs of war activities. In fact, the Budget Committee adopted report language as part of the budget resolution affirming that goal. It says, ''Abuse of the OCO/GWOT cap adjustment is a backdoor loophole that undermines the integrity of the budget process. The Budget Committee will exercise its oversight responsibilities with respect to the use of the OCO/GWOT designation in the FY 2015 budget process, and it will oppose increases above the levels the Administration and our military commanders say are needed to carry out operations unless it can be clearly demonstrated that such amounts are war-related.''

We should provide our military and diplomatic corps all the resources they need to carry out the important missions the country gives them. However, we should not use the OCO budget as a back-door mechanism to get around discretionary funding caps. The continuing resolution gives the Administration the spending authority needed to keep the government open and to give the necessary resources to support those engaged in operations overseas. It does not give the Administration a blank check to finance non-war activities.

In the coming months when the House considers the final full-year appropriation for overseas contingency operations, I am committed to working with Chairman RYAN to ensure that funds appropriated in the OCO budget will only be used for war-related costs.

RECOGNIZING THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 225th anniversary since the creation of the United States Customs Service, the oldest legacy agency consolidated into the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), within the Department of Homeland Security.

The history of the U.S. Customs Service is in many ways the history of the nation. In the years after the American Revolution, our young Nation needed to generate funds to power its economy and rebuild its infrastructure. On July 31, 1789, the First United States Congress, in its fifth act, created the U.S. Customs Service, staffed by official Customs collectors. In this role, a Customs collector had the responsibility to supervise the collection of custom duties on imported goods in a particular city or region to enforce the newly passed Tariff Act.

Customs collectors also oversaw the building of revenue cutters, to patrol our coasts, and lighthouses to guide ships to our ports, which was essential to the Nation's maritime security and trade activities. For over 100 years after its birth, before the passage of the Sixteenth Amendment, the tariffs collected by the Customs Service were the primary source of funds for the entire government, which paid for the nation's early growth, infrastructure and land purchases such as the Louisiana and Oregon territories.

The responsibilities of the U.S. Customs Service would be reshaped and refocused following the attacks of 9/11. The Homeland Security Act of 2002 transferred the U.S. Customs Service in its entirety from the Department of the Treasury to the Department of Homeland Security.

Today, CBP manages the Nation's 328 air, land, and sea ports of entry. CBP officers, like their predecessor Customs inspectors, serve on the frontlines, securing our homeland from transnational threats, including terrorists, terrorist weapons, drugs and other contraband, while simultaneously facilitating the legitimate flow travel and trade across our borders.

While the responsibilities of a CBP Officer have grown since 9/11, Officers continue to perform essential revenue-collecting services as when established by the founders of the Republic, and enforce hundreds of immigration, agriculture, and trade laws.

The men and women of CBP are still making history. They continue to fuel our Nation's economy and support American jobs by facilitating legitimate trade and travel while keeping our borders secure.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I want to commend the men and women of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection for their many years of service and wish them a happy 225th anniversary.

CONGRATULATING YE OLDE YARDLEY FLORIST ON ITS 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, a small business in Yardley, Bucks County, Pennsylvania has provided plants and flowers to local and regional customers for over 100 years. On September 27, 2014 its doors will open for a special anniversary celebration. Ye Olde Yardley Florist on South Main Street is truly an example of ''small business,'' the very backbone of our economy. Due to their experience, effort and knowledge, the Yardley floral and gift shop has thrived. Community leaders and citizens will join owner Susan Gorka for a celebration to acknowledge the quality and service the store has provided, while retaining the tradition of good business they have come to expect. Congratulations on this milestone and may Ye Olde Yardley Florist have many more years of continued success, bringing beauty and joy to its friends and customers.

HONORING JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE'S VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the ribbon cutting of the Veterans Resource Center at Joliet Junior College.

The Veterans Resource Center will benefit approximately 300 students that use GI education benefits every semester at Joliet Junior College. The dedicated space will provide veterans with an area to socialize, study, access computers, and attend counseling sessions.

I applaud Joliet Junior College for providing our veterans with services like the Veterans Resource Center and for its dedication to ensuring that the men and women who serve our country have access to a great education in a supportive environment.

I congratulate Joliet Junior College on opening the Veterans Resource Center and thank the college for its hard work on behalf of our veterans.

RECOGNIZING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2014 GREATER RESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS FOR CHAMBER EXCELLENCE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize recipients of the 2014 Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce Awards for Chamber Excellence.

The Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1982 as a business roundtable in the growing community of Reston, Virginia. For more than 30 years, the Reston Chamber has facilitated business growth and entrepreneurship through its programming, advocacy, and engagement throughout the region. The Reston Chamber currently has more than 600 member businesses that together employ more than 10,000 people. It is the 6th largest chamber of commerce in the Washington, DC-metropolitan region and is deeply embedded in the community.

The Reston Chamber hosts annual events such as Taste of Reston, Oktoberfest Reston, and Best of Reston, and it has received national recognition for its Ethics Day, a workshop for high school students on ethical decision making. Members use the INC.spire Education Foundation and free SCORE business coaching programs to help create and grow their enterprises. INC.spire has assisted more than four dozen entrepreneurs create 500 jobs and $45 million of business investment.

Each year, through the Awards for Chamber Excellence, the Chamber recognizes member companies, individuals, and volunteers who have demonstrated excellence, innovation, and exceptional dedication to the Reston community. I am pleased to join the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce in recognizing the following Awards for Chamber Excellence (ACE) recipients:

Committee of the Year: Charles Kapur, EagleBank, Membership Committee.

Committee of the Year: Sam Cousins, SBIS, Membership Committee.

Small Business of the Year: Silver Spoon Catering.

Medium Business of the Year: Business Engineering, Inc.

Large Business of the Year: Sheraton Reston Hotel.

Member of the Year: Lisa Nicholls, Tira! Strategies.

New Member of the Year: Ellen Moyer, Re/Max Allegiance.

Volunteer of the Year: Andy Klaff, Colliers.

Joe Ritchie Pinnacle Award: Casey Veatch, Veatch Commercial Real Estate.

President's Award: Tonia Chagnon, Red Thinking.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating this year's award recipients and in thanking them for their contributions to the local economy and outstanding service to our community. I also commend the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce for its role as an invaluable partner to local businesses, nonprofits and schools. The efforts of the Chamber, the member businesses, and volunteers have helped make Reston a truly special place to live, work, and raise a family.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this upcoming month of October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). As part of a national campaign, NDEAM raises awareness about employment issues facing individuals with disabilities and celebrates the vast contributions made by American workers with disabilities. This year's theme is ''Expect. Employ. Empower.''

NDEAM's origins can be traced back to 1945, when Congress first passed a resolution declaring the first week of October as ''National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.'' In 1988, Congress expanded this week to an entire month and changed the name to ''National Disability Employment Awareness Month'' to reflect the wide variety of disabilities, physical or nonphysical, that an individual may have.

This month serves to remind us all that a strong, thriving workforce is an inclusive workforce. As a nation, we must work together to increase meaningful employment opportunities for those with disabilities and utilize their many talents.

I would like to especially recognize the great work of the Georgia Industries for the Blind (GIB), a facet of the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA). The GIB was established in 1937 and subsequently opened its first manufacturing plant in 1949. Since then, it has grown to include three manufacturing sites located in Albany, Bainbridge and Griffin, as well as two service sites located in Bainbridge and Warner Robins. The GIB employs nearly 100 blind persons and boasts over $12 million in annual sales.

The GIB is a leader in the fight against the marginalization of the disabled worker and I applaud their resounding efforts to expand employment opportunities to those with disabilities throughout Georgia. By offering competitive wages and a full benefits package, Georgia Industries for the Blind stands as a shining example for other employers across the nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing National Disability Employment Awareness Month by acknowledging the positive impact those with disabilities have on the American workforce, as well as understanding the need to increase meaningful employment opportunities for our disabled citizens. In addition, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the strides made by Georgia Industries for the Blind and other employers leading the effort to implement a more inclusive employee culture.

IN HONOR OF JUDGE ANN OSBORNE

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge Ann Osborne of the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania. She is retiring after many years of serving her community.

Judge Osborne has been a beacon for justice on the bench in Delaware County for the last 16 years. Before the bench, Judge Osborne served as Sheriff of Delaware County from 1991 to 1998. Additionally, she taught comparative government, international law and criminal law at Temple University, Villanova University and Immaculata College. She left her mark on the Delaware County community and her contribution will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Judge Ann Osborne for her long and honorable service. I applaud her

successes and wish her the best of luck in her retirement.

ON THE PASSING OF MR. JOSEPH NADEAU

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sympathy to commemorate the life of Mr. Joseph Nadeau. Mr. Nadeau was a dedicated husband, father, and tireless advocate for Rhode Island veterans, who himself honorably served his country as a Senior Master Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force. Like many Rhode Islanders, I am deeply saddened by Mr. Nadeau's passing and send my condolences to his five children, entire family and friends.

During his military service in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, Joseph Nadeau earned the Air Force Commendation Medal for outstanding service, the Meritorious Service Medal, Missile Maintenance awards with the 4751st in 1967 and 1968, the National Defense Service medal, the Good Conduct medal, and the United Nations Service medal. Despite traveling the world with his loving wife Dorothy as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, Mr. Nadeau returned to Rhode Island to raise his five children. At home, in Woonsocket, Mr. Nadeau was also recognized for his outstanding service to the local veterans' community and named the 2002 Veteran of the Year by the United Veterans Council of Woonsocket.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my deepest sympathies to the Nadeau family and express my gratitude for Mr. Nadeau's service to our country and local community. He truly enriched the lives of those around him and made the world a better place to live. Rhode Island will miss him.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 103RD NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the upcoming 103rd National Day of the Republic of China on October 10, 2014. On this special day each year, we commemorate the establishment of Taiwan.

Officially known as the Republic of China, Taiwan is not only an outstanding example of a free economy and vibrant representative democracy in the Asia-Pacific region, but also a long-term strategic ally and trading partner of the United States. I recently had the pleasure of meeting with many Taiwanese-American members of the World Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce, and was pleased to hear of their willingness to come forward and improve our mutual trading relationship. I am proud to once again express my support for strengthening the partnership between the United States and Taiwan.

On the eve of Taiwan's 103rd anniversary, I congratulate President Ma Ying-jeou, Taiwan Representative to the United States Ambassador Lyushun Shen, and all of the Taiwanese people for their unwavering pursuit of freedom.

RECOGNIZING DAVID HALE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AT FORT BELVOIR

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of my constituent, David Hale. After 50 years of service in the United States federal government, Mr. Hale is retiring as the Deputy Director of Public Works for the U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Belvoir.

His career started August 10, 1964 as a Clerk Typist, GS–2 for the Director of Facilities, Road, and Grounds Division. Mr. Hale served in the Army for a year and then returned to the Department of Defense where he worked as an Electrical Technician. Later in his career, Mr. Hale became the Deputy Director of Public Works.

Mr. Hale's work has had direct and significant positive impact on the quality of life at Fort Belvoir. Having been the Deputy Director for DPW, Fort Belvoir, for decades, he has shown himself to be a technically superior facilities engineer, outstanding leader and executive, and a tireless worker. Under his leadership and guidance, Fort Belvoir has done an exceptional job upgrading its master plan and implementing residential communities while emphasizing environmental stewardship and maintaining excellent community relations. Mr. Hale has played a central role in the development of the Fort Belvoir strategic plan and provision of outstanding customer support.

His efforts resulted in improved overall facilities and mission readiness and living and working conditions of soldiers, their families, and the civilian workforce at the fort. He has also distinguished himself as a caring individual willing to do everything to the best of his considerable abilities to take care of soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Hale on his retirement and in thanking him for his 50 years of distinguished service to the people of the United States of America and to the men and women who serve in uniform and their families.

HONORING BEST BUY'S E-RECYCLING INITIATIVE

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Best Buy's extraordinary commitment to electronics recycling, and their leadership in zero-waste initiatives in the retail industry.

Starting with a goal of recycling one billion pounds of electronics by the end of 2014, Best Buy opened collection points for e-waste at all of its 1,300 retail locations through the United States. Through aggressive awareness and marketing campaigns, they increased collections by 20 percent to nearly 100 million pounds in 2012. Every minute they are open, the company collects more than 400 pounds of electronics waste, without regard to the product's initial retailer. As of September 12, 2014 Best Buy has recycled over 966 million pounds of electronics.

I applaud Best Buy's dedication to electronics recycling. Their recycling strategies should serve as a model to other major retailers. On behalf of the residents of the Fifth Congressional District, I commend Best Buy for their commitment to our environment; their e-waste collection sets the bar for other companies and goes beyond any level mandated by government.

RECOGNIZING THE 103RD NATIONAL DAY OF TAIWAN

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 103rd national day of the Republic of China (ROC), which is known by most Americans as Taiwan.

Double Ten Day, which as the name implies falls on October 10, commemorates the Wuchang Uprising, an event that triggered a revolution leading to the overthrow of the Qing Dynasty and the establishment of the ROC on January 1, 1912.

The United States has since stood by the ROC as we faced common enemies over the course of World War II and through the Cold War. With the creation and enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act in 1979, Congress guaranteed the continuing importance of the special U.S.-Taiwan relationship. Through the hard work and determination of its people, Taiwan has built a democracy that has witnessed direct presidential elections every four years since 1966 and has twice seen the peaceful passage of power from one political party to another.

Taiwan is a shining example to other countries who aspire to democracy both in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world. It is a regional and global economic and cultural force as a major innovator in high-technology and contributor to art and fashion. Through our shared security partnership, Taiwan also contributes to the security of the Asia-Pacific region.

With the rise of tensions over the Diaoyutai/Senkaku Islands and other areas of the East China Sea two years ago—tensions that remain prevalent today—Taiwan under the leadership of President Ma Ying-jeou proposed an East China Sea peace initiative. It calls for dialogue and diplomacy to reduce tensions among the claimants to promote mutual benefit from the natural-bounties of the disputed waters. This kind of vision is sorely needed in these types of global disputes, and it should be given due consideration by the international community.

At a House Foreign Affairs hearing this past March, the State Department's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs responded positively to President Ma's proposal. I hope my colleagues will study it and consider its proposals. And in appreciation of Taiwan's many

contributions to the global community, I hope that they will join me in wishing the people of Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day.

RECOGNIZING SOLDIERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY IN LEESBURG, FLORIDA

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the soldiers of the National Guard Armory in Leesburg, Florida.

Alpha Company of the Leesburg National Guard Armory has bravely served both on American soil and overseas. In March 2005, soldiers of the 124th Infantry Regiment were deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. After conducting missions in Oman and Pakistan in 2008, Alpha Company deployed to Kuwait and conducted missions throughout Iraq, assisting the transition from Operation Iraqi Freedom to Operation New Dawn.

In Florida, Alpha Company has provided critical support in times of natural disaster. In 2004, service men and women aided victims of hurricanes that caused catastrophic damage around the state. Alpha Company also assisted Central Florida residents in 2007 when a series of tornadoes damaged thousands of homes and claimed several lives.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the soldiers of Alpha Company for their brave and selfless service in Central Florida and abroad. It is an honor to recognize them and all men and women in the United States' armed forces.

THE RUSSIANS KEEP MOVING WEST

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Russian bear is back, seeking to devour his neighbors and reclaim his kingdom. Mr. Putin, or the Napoleon of Siberia as I like to call him, yearns for the glory days of the Soviet Union when the great communist empire extended from Latvia in the north to Tajikistan in the south. Putin is systematically reestablishing the Soviet Empire, but this time with Putin as king.

In November 2013, Putin bribed the then President of Ukraine with a payment of $15 billion in exchange for cutting off negotiations with the European Union that would have integrated Ukraine more into the West.

When then President Yanukovych accepted the bribe, hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians took to the streets in peaceful protest. With the loss of the support of the people, in February 2014 the corrupt President left his gilded palace, resigned his position, and retreated back to Russia.

The people of Ukraine elected a new government who would represent their desire to be free and move closer to the West.

Putin did not like this one bit. So, he sent in his henchmen, first in Crimea and then in towns in eastern Ukraine, to stir unrest. Then in came the Russian troops to "protect" the ethnic Russians from the crisis that Putin created.

We have seen this movie before. The Russians are doing the same thing to the Ukrainians in 2014 as they did to the Georgians in 2008.

In 2008, I was in Georgia just after the Russians invaded. Georgia was moving closer and closer to the West. Russia did not like this, so it decided to create instability. It sent in its henchmen to cause trouble. Then Putin sent in Russia troops and tanks to stop the trouble it created. Six years later, the Russians are still there.

This winter, the Russian bear is not going to go into hibernation. Mr. Putin is going to dial up the pressure. He knows how reliant much of Europe is on Russian energy. When the weather gets colder, much of Europe will be at the mercy of Putin in order to stay warm. Putin is not afraid to use energy as leverage. I know because I was in Ukraine when Russia turned off the gas in 2006. It was cold. Unless Europe diversifies, it is only going to become more reliant on Russian gas.

We have an easy solution to this. The United States is in the midst of an energy revolution. We have more natural gas than we can use. In fact, natural gas is being left in the ground and burnt off at the well head because producers have no domestic buyers. There is a glut in the market. But the government, that institution that always seems to get in the way, says producers cannot sell the gas abroad without permission first from the Department of Energy. The Department of Energy is like any government bureaucracy—slow as molasses. Meanwhile, the Europeans are months away from being subject to Russian blackmail.

That's why I introduced H.R. 4155, the Fight Russian Energy Exploitation (FREE) Act. The bill would free up our gas to go to the former Soviet states like Ukraine and countries in the European Union. Our allies want our gas and are willing to pay for it. If we sell our gas to them, it means more money injected into our economy and more American jobs. It is so simple you wonder why it has not been done already.

Putin is in this for the long-term. Russian troops are still in Ukraine and just like in Georgia, they have no plans on leaving. If the Ukrainian government is not going to move towards Russia, then Putin has decided he is going to make them as weak and unstable as possible so they cannot move towards the West in any meaningful way.

The Russians cannot be trusted. Back in 1994, in exchange for Ukraine giving up its nuclear weapons, Russia promised to respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine. The B Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances was just a piece of paper to the Russians. So much for diplomacy and trusting the Russia bear not to eat more territory.

Appeasement is not the answer. Russia will keep taking as much as the West is willing to let them. Who knows who could be next—Latvia, Estonia, Moldova? What then? When will the West decide enough is enough?

The United States and Europe must come together. It is together that we can offer tough sanctions that will deal a big blow to Putin. As we tighten the economic noose around the Russia bear, we should loosen our ban on the export of crude oil and cut the red tape so we can export more natural gas to our European partners. We should also stand behind President Poroshenko with meaningful economic and military aid. He is doing all he can to prevent the Russians from taking over more of his country, but he cannot do it alone.

Winter is coming. Free people that want to remain free, better take heed.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HEALTH IT WEEK

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September 15–19, 2014 as the 9th annual National Health IT Week. This is an important opportunity to reflect upon the importance of health information technology in stimulating the U.S. economy and improving health care in our country. My own district, which includes Silicon Valley, is home to a growing number of innovative digital health startups and companies making an impact in health care. These companies are addressing some of health care's most pressing challenges with breakthrough technologies and services, all the while creating valuable jobs.

Health IT supports workforce development in the U.S. and exports opportunities abroad. The Bureau of Labor Statistics expects a need for thousands of new health IT jobs over the next decade. Health IT workforce development programs need visibility and connection to the Administration's programs for job creation. Congressional support is needed for funding to expand community college, university-based, and non-profit programs to train health IT workers. Policymakers need to work with non-profit associations and the business community to launch and support internships, apprenticeships, and fellowships that give students and transitioning professionals real-world experience. Federal agencies should work with U.S. companies, health care organizations, and non-profit associations to document lessons learned and best practices from the Meaningful Use Program and apply them to overseas markets.

In order to continue on this path, we need to provide incentives and frameworks to guide and reward these health care innovators. That is why I introduced H.R. 2363, the Health Care Innovation and Marketplace Technologies Act, which would create a new office of wireless health under the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and offer incentives for health care innovators. This legislation would not only create jobs, but also provide a regulatory framework for innovators who seek to grow companies and develop products to transform health care. It is imperative that we support these innovators, as it is clear that health IT supports workforce development in the U.S. We must also continue to prepare students and our workforce for the 21st century demands of the technology industry. The growth of health IT undoubtedly has the potential to stimulate the economy and bring much-needed innovation to our nation's healthcare sector.

Health information technology is essential to the transformation of health care in America,

and so I am happy to commemorate National Health IT Week.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOTH THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND AND THE WILDERNESS ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of both the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Wilderness Act, two momentous accomplishments for the environmental movement at both the time of their signing and today.

The technology sector in my district is booming. People come to Seattle not just because of our vibrant technology ecosystem or our business- and worker-friendly environment. They also come because smart, forward-thinking people for the past 50 years have set aside open space—preserving farmland, building parks, and conserving habitat.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund helped conserve iconic natural treasures in all fifty states, including Mount Rainier National Park in the great state of Washington. I am a frequent visitor to the beautiful San Juan Islands, another Washington gem protected by the LWCF. The Wilderness Act enabled the highest levels of protection for the stunning Alpine Lakes Wilderness, a natural landscape Seattleites are fortunate to have in their backyard.

Programs like the Land and Water Conservation Act and the Wilderness Act are not just good for the environment; they are good for people and the economy. I commend those who enacted these programs half a century ago and those working to promote this work today. It is imperative that we continue the legacy of preserving America's rich and diverse natural heritage.

CELEBRATING WILDERNESS WEEK 2014

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of our nation's public lands and wilderness and in honor of Wilderness Week, observed September 13–18, 2014.

This year, Wilderness Week takes on special meaning, as this September marks the 50th anniversary of two enduring tools for American conservation: the Wilderness Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Passed by Congress in 1964, these two acts remain vital to our efforts of conserving the best of America's natural lands.

On September 3, 1964, President Johnson signed into law the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, landmark legislation that established a dedicated and permanent funding stream for the purpose of protecting and conserving our nation's irreplaceable outdoor recreational, natural, historic and cultural landmarks.

Paid for by royalties collected from oil and gas companies, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has financed generations of projects to bring parks and clean, green spaces to the hearts of our urban areas. The suite of LWCF programs is critical for protecting natural lands, outdoor recreation opportunities, and working forests at the local, state and federal levels. Since its creation, the LWCF program has conserved more than 5 million acres of parks, recreation, forests, and other lands through the federal program and more than 2.6 million acres in communities throughout every state in the nation.

But LWCF does more than simply add to our public lands. Investing in LWCF is also an important way to grow our economy. The Outdoor Industry Association states that outdoor recreation contributes more than $1.06 trillion annually to the U.S. economy, supports more than 9.4 million jobs, and stimulates 8 percent of all consumer spending. And The Trust for Public Land found that every $1 invested in LWCF returns $4 in economic value. Without LWCF funding to stimulate matching investments from state, local and private entities, this crucial economic driver will be lost.

These numbers prove the program's success, and I am pleased that the program is also extremely popular. In recent polls, more than 80 percent of voters expressed support for continuing to deposit fees from offshore oil and gas drilling into LWCF—this broad support extends from every geographic region of the country and every political persuasion. Supporters include governors, mayors, sportsmen, industry leaders, conservationists, Civil War enthusiasts, historians, recreationists, small businesses, forest owners, and the many Americans who see firsthand the tangible benefits this program has had on their communities and families.

Although LWCF has a dedicated revenue stream from offshore drilling royalties and takes no taxpayer money from the general fund, large portions of this funding have been diverted over the years to non-conservation purposes. Even at last year's appropriated level of $306 million, we were a far cry from the $900 million that is annually authorized for conservation work. In addition, LWCF's authorizing legislation is set to expire in September 2015, and it is imperative that we reauthorize this successful program before that date. I believe Congress should uphold its decades long commitment to land and water conservation and reinvigorate LWCF, thereby expanding opportunities for all Americans to have access to parks and natural areas for outdoor recreation.

Along with the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, President Johnson also signed into law the Wilderness Act. The Wilderness Act allows Congress to designate some public lands as "wilderness." These wilderness areas are designed to remain unchanged by humans—to allow ecological and evolutionary processes could be carried out without human intervention and give future generations a "glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning." As such, these areas are off-limits to commercial ventures, such as logging and mining, and permanent structures (roads and lodges), but they remain available for public exploration.

Just as our government had established the first national parks in the world almost a century earlier, the Wilderness Act made the United States the first country in the world to designate and protect wilderness. When it was first signed, the Wilderness Act designated 54 wilderness areas, protecting about 9.1 million acres in 13 states. Since that time, the number of wilderness areas has increased to more than 750, covering about 110 million acres of wilderness in 44 states. Our wilderness areas include some of the highest points of the Rockies to places like Linville Gorge in my home state of North Carolina's mountains. Sadly, some opponents of conservation in Congress would like to see this hard work undone. In 2012, for the first time, Congress actually took 222 acres out of the wilderness designation.

John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, once said, "Wilderness is a necessity . . . There must be places for human beings to satisfy their souls." Today, in an increasingly urban nation, wilderness areas are ever more important as we need a place to get away, to enjoy and restore ourselves. Wilderness areas also serve to provide biological diversity, clean air and water, and baseline data for research as we deal with issues like climate change. We need to protect connected landscapes to sustain our fish and wildlife and other natural resources for the future.

So, while the 50th anniversary of each of these landmark bills is an occasion for celebration, it must also serve as a reminder of the work we have to do. I once heard it said that "America's public lands are like unfinished works of art; incomplete masterpieces." LWCF and the Wilderness Act will help to complete this work. In fact, that was the promise made to the American people 50 years ago when these bills were enacted. President Johnson wisely observed, "True leadership must provide for the next decade and not merely the next day." So, let us celebrate wilderness week and honor the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and LWCF by renewing our commitment to protect our nation's wild places.

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 Thursday, September 18, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 23

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lourdes Maria Castro Ramirez, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Therese W. McMillan, of California, to be Federal Transit Administrator, Department of Transportation.

SD–538

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine The FANS Act, focusing on if sports blackouts and antitrust exemptions are harming fans, consumers, and the games themselves.

SD–226

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

House passed H.J. Res. 124, Making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5651–5723

Measures Introduced: Eighteen bills and twelve resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2833–2850, S.J. Res. 44, S. Res. 551–560, and S. Con. Res. 43. **Pages S5697–98**

Measures Reported:

S. 2141, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2583, to promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling for devices licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.

S. 2799, to extend the authority of satellite carriers to retransmit certain television broadcast station signals, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5697**

Measures Passed:

DHS OIG Mandates Revision Act: Senate passed S. 2651, to repeal certain mandates of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5715**

Sunscreen Innovation Act: Senate passed S. 2141, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S5715–20**

Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial: Senate passed H.R. 4751, to make technical corrections to Public Law 110–229 to reflect the renaming of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial. **Page S5720**

The Defense Production Act: Senate passed H.R. 4809, to reauthorize the Defense Production Act, to improve the Defense Production Act Committee. **Page S5720**

Hispanic Heritage Month: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 545, recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and the immense contributions of Latinos to the United States, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S5720**

National Bison Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 543, designating November 1, 2014, as National Bison Day, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S5720**

Lights on Afterschool: Senate agreed to S. Res. 552, supporting Lights on Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 23, 2014. **Page S5720**

250th Anniversary of the Hartford Courant Newspaper: Senate agreed to S. Res. 553, recognizing the 250th anniversary of the Hartford Courant newspaper. **Page S5720**

National Principals Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 554, recognizing the month of October 2014 as "National Principals Month". **Page S5720**

National Health Information Technology Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 555, designating the week of September 15 through September 19, 2014, as "National Health Information Technology Week" to recognize the value of health information technology in transforming and improving the health care system for all individuals in the United States. **Page S5720**

National Wildlife Refuge Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 556, designating the week beginning on October 12, 2014, as National Wildlife Refuge Week. **Page S5720**

National Character Counts Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 557, designating the week beginning October 19, 2014, as "National Character Counts Week". **Page S5720**

National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 558, designating the week of September 22 through 28, 2014, as "National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week". **Page S5720**

National Chemistry Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 559, designating the week beginning on October 19, 2014, as "National Chemistry Week". **Page S5720**

School Bus Safety Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 560, designating September 2014 as "School Bus Safety Month". **Page S5720**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism that was established in Executive Order 13224 on September 23, 2001; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–53) **Page S5695**

Removal of Injunction of Secrecy: The injunction of secrecy was removed from the following treaty:

Extradition Treaty with the Republic of Chile (Treaty Doc. No. 113–6).

The treaty was transmitted to the Senate today, considered as having been read for the first time, and referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed. **Pages S5720–21**

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION—AGREEMENT: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 1:00 p.m., on Thursday, September 18, 2014, Senate begin consideration of H.J. Res, 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015; that following the reporting of the joint resolution, the Majority Leader be recognized; that there be up to four and a half hours equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, there be no other motions or points of order in order to the joint resolution, other than a Sessions, or designee, motion to table or a budget point of order, and the applicable motion to waive; that Senator Sessions, or designee, be recognized for a motion to table an amendment to the joint resolution; that if the motion to table is agreed to, the Majority Leader be recognized; that if the motion to table is not agreed to, and notwithstanding Rule XXII, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the joint resolution; that if cloture is invoked, all post-cloture time be considered expired, the pending amendments be withdrawn, the joint resolution be read a third time, and Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution. **Page S5684**

Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that following the vote on H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, Senate begin consideration of the nominations of Mark William Lippert, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, Adam M. Scheinman, of Virginia, to be Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation, with the rank of Ambassador, Kevin F. O'Malley, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to Ireland, Bathsheba Nell Crocker, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs), Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy, Robert W. Holleyman II, of Louisiana, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, Eric Rosenbach, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, D. Nathan Sheets, of Maryland, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury, Charles H. Fulghum, of North Carolina, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security; that there be two minutes for debate equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees, prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote, without intervening action or debate, on confirmation of the nominations in the order listed; that any roll call votes, following the first in the series, be 10 minutes in length; and that no further motions be in order to the nomination. **Page S5715**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By a unanimous vote of 98 yeas (Vote No. EX. 267), John R. Bass, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey. **Pages S5661–62, S5722**

Eric T. Schultz, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Zambia. **Pages S5662, S5722**

Thomas Frederick Daughton, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia. **Pages S5662, S5722**

David Pressman, of New York, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador. **Pages S5662, S5722**

David Pressman, of New York, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations. **Pages S5662, S5722**

Debra S. Wada, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army. **Pages S5662, S5722**

Laura S. Wertheimer, of the District of Columbia, to be Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency. **Pages S5662, S5722**

Bradford Raymond Huther, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development. **Pages S5662, S5722**

4 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

11 Army nominations in the rank of general.

7 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, and Navy. **Pages S5714–15, S5722–23**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

2 Army nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Army. **Pages S5721–22**

Messages from the House: Page S5695

Measures Referred: Page S5695

Executive Communications: Pages S5695–97

Executive Reports of Committees: Page S5697

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S5698–S5700

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S5700–06

Additional Statements: Pages S5690–94

Amendments Submitted: Pages S5706–13

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S5713

Privileges of the Floor: Pages S5713–14

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—267) Pages S5661–62

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:55 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5721.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Lisa Afua Serwah Mensah, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

AMERICAN ECONOMY INEQUALITY

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Policy concluded a hearing to examine the impact of rising inequality on the American economy, after receiving testimony from Heather C. McGhee, Demos, New York, New York; Amir Sufi, University of Chicago Booth School of Business, Chicago, Illinois; Claudia Viek, California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunity (CAMEO), San Francisco; and Adam S. Hersh, Center for American Progress, Washington, DC.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2338, to reauthorize the United States Anti-Doping Agency;

S. 2482, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, as adopted at Tokyo on February 24, 2012, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2484, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, as adopted at Auckland on November 14, 2009, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2485, to implement the Amendment to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, as adopted at Lisbon on September 28, 2007;

S. 2581, to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a rule to require child safety packaging for liquid nicotine containers;

S. 2583, to promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling for devices licensed by the Federal Communications Commission;

S. 2759, to release the City of St. Clair, Missouri, from all restrictions, conditions, and limitations on the use, encumbrance, conveyance, and closure of the St. Clair Regional Airport;

S. 2777, to establish the Surface Transportation Board as an independent establishment, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2799, to extend the authority of satellite carriers to retransmit certain television broadcast station signals, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of Christopher A. Hart, of Colorado, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, and Manson K. Brown, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

AMERICA'S ENERGY TAX CODE

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine reforming America's outdated energy tax code, after receiving testimony from former Senator Don Nickles, The Nickles Group, LLC, Ethan Zindler, Bloomberg New Energy Finance, and David W. Kreutzer, The Heritage Foundation, all of Washington, DC; Gilbert E. Metcalf, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts; and Norman R. Augustine, Bethesda, Maryland.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Robert Francis Cekuta, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Richard M. Mills, Jr., of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia, Jess Lippincott Baily, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia, and Margaret Ann Uyehara, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to Montenegro, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

U.S. STRATEGY FOR ISIL

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the United States strategy to defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, after receiving testimony from John F. Kerry, Secretary of State; and Robert S. Ford, Middle East Institute, and Ben Connable, RAND Corporation, both of Washington, DC.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Sarah R. Saldana, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, who was introduced by Senator Cornyn, and Russell C. Deyo, of New Jersey, to be Under Secretary for Management, both of the Department of Homeland Security, and Mickey D. Barnett, of New Mexico, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2141, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

H.R. 4366, to strengthen the Federal education research system to make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nomination of Sharon Block, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board.

KEEP THE PROMISE ACT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 2670, to prohibit gaming activities on certain Indian land in Arizona until the expiration of certain gaming compacts, after receiving testimony from Kevin K. Washburn, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs; Mayor Jerry Weiers, and Gary Sherwood, Councilman, both of Glendale, Arizona; Allison C. Binney, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld LLP, Washington, DC; Gregory Mendoza, Gila River Indian Community, Sacaton, Arizona; and Ned Norris, Jr., The Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona, Sells.

NET NEUTRALITY

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine why net neutrality matters, focusing on protecting consumers and competition through meaningful open Internet rules, including S. 2476, to direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations that prohibit certain preferential treatment or prioritization of Internet traffic, after receiving testimony from Bradford Burnham, Union Square Ventures, LLC, New York, New York; Robert M. McDowell, Wiley Rein, LLP, Jeffrey A. Eisenach, American Enterprise Institute, and Nuala O'Connor, Center for Democracy and Technology, all of Washington, DC; and Ruth Livier, Pacific Palisades, California.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Allison Dale Burroughs, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, who was introduced by Senator Warren, Jeanne E. Davidson, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, and Haywood Stirling Gilliam, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, who were both introduced by Senator Feinstein, and Amit Priyavadan Mehta, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, who was introduced by Representative Norton, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 25 public bills, H.R. 5500–5524; 5 resolutions, H. Res. 729–733 were introduced. **Pages H7674–75**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H7676–77**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Jolly to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H7621**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:46 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H7626**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest chaplain, Reverend Joseph Holcomb, St. Andrew Avellino Catholic Church, Flushing, New York.

Page H7626

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Pages H7626, H7662**

National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity—Appointment: The Chair clarified that pursuant to section 106(b)(5)(B) of the Higher Education Opportunity Act, the Speaker's appointments of May 25, 2010, and December 22, 2010, of individuals on the part of the House to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity expired on May 25, 2014. Subsequently, the Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following individuals on the part of the House to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity for a term of six years: Upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader: Arthur E. Keiser of Fort Lauderdale, FL; William Pepicello of Scottsdale, AZ; and Arthur J. Rothkopf of Washington, DC. **Page H7630**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and agree to the following measure:

Strongly supporting the right of the people of Ukraine to freely determine their future, including their country's relationship with other nations and international organizations, without interference, intimidation, or coercion by other countries: H. Res. 726, to strongly support the right of the people of Ukraine to freely determine their future, including their country's relationship with other nations and international organizations, without interference, intimidation, or coercion by other countries. **Pages H7630–35**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures which were debated yesterday, September 16th:

Federal Reserve Transparency Act: H.R. 24, amended, 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, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 333 yeas to 92 nays, Roll No. 504 and **Page H7635**

Amending title 49, United States Code, to provide for limitations on the fees charged to passengers of air carriers: H.R. 5462, to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for limitations on the fees charged to passengers of air carriers, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 423 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 505. **Pages H7635–36**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on September 15th:

Amending the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission: S. 476, to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 419 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 506. **Pages H7636–37**

Making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015: The House agreed to H.J. Res. 124, to make continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, by a recorded vote of 319 ayes to 108 noes, Roll No. 509. Consideration of the measure began yesterday, September 16th. **Pages H7637–62**

Rejected the Bustos motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 199 ayes to 228 noes, Roll No. 508. **Pages H7660–62**

Agreed to:

McKeon amendment (printed in part B of H. Rept. 113–600) that authorizes the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to train and equip appropriately vetted elements of the Syrian opposition and other appropriately vetted Syrian groups or individuals. Additionally, the amendment strengthens Congressional oversight by requiring detailed reports, including progress reports, on the plan, vetting process, and procedures for monitoring unauthorized end-use of provided training and equipment. It also requires the President to report on how this authority fits within a larger regional strategy. The amendment allows the Department of Defense (DOD) to submit a reprogramming request to Congress should the President request DOD funds to execute this authority and permits the Secretary of Defense to accept foreign contributions. Lastly, the amendment states that nothing in this section be construed to constitute a specific statutory authorization for the introduction of United States Armed Forces into hostilities or into situations wherein hostilities are clearly indicated by the circumstances (by a yea-and-nay vote of 273 yeas to 156 nays, Roll No. 507). Consideration of the amendment began yesterday, September 16th. **Pages H7637–60**

H. Res. 722, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolution, was agreed to yesterday, September 16th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, September 18th. **Page H7662**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001 is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2014—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 113–155).

Page H7663

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H7624.

Senate Referrals: S. 1214 was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; S. 2539, S. 2117, S. 2511, and S. 2440 were held at the desk. Page H7672

Discharge Petition: Representative Polis presented to the clerk a motion to discharge the Committee on Rules from the consideration of H. Res. 678, a resolution providing for the consideration of the bill (S. 815) to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity (Discharge Petition No. 11).

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7635, H7635–36, H7636–37, H7660, H7661–62, H7662. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Committee Meetings

IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 4022 OF THE AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 2014

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing to review the implementation of Section 4022 of the Agricultural Act of 2014: pilot projects to reduce dependency and increase work requirements and work effort under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Testimony was heard from Tom Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 4959, the "EEOC Transparency and Accountability Act"; H.R. 5422, the "Litigation Oversight Act of 2014"; and H.R. 5423, the "Certainty in Enforcement Act of 2014". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Power held a hearing entitled "A hearing on H.R. 4526, the 21st Century Energy Workforce Development Jobs Initiative Act of 2014". Testimony was heard from LaDoris "Dot" Harris, Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF FCC BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled "Oversight of FCC Budget and Management". Testimony was heard from Jon Wilkins, Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission; and David Hunt, Inspector General, Federal Communications Commission.

CROSS BORDER DATA FLOWS: COULD FOREIGN PROTECTIONISM HURT U.S. JOBS?

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade held a hearing entitled "Cross Border Data Flows: Could Foreign Protectionism Hurt U.S. Jobs?". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF THE FINANCIAL STABILITY OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled "Oversight of the Financial Stability Oversight Council". Testimony was heard from Patrick Pinschmidt, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Financial Stability Oversight Council; and A. Nicole Clowers, Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment, Government Accountability Office.

GLOBAL EFFORTS TO FIGHT EBOLA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled "Global Efforts to Fight Ebola". Testimony was heard from the following Department of Health and Human Services officials: Anthony S. Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health; Luciana Borio, Director, Office of Counterterrorism and Emerging Threats, Office of the Chief Scientist, Food and Drug Administration; and Beth P. Bell, Director, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Nancy Lindborg, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a markup on H. Res. 714, reaffirming the peaceful and collaborative resolution of maritime and jurisdictional disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea as provided for by universally recognized principles of international law, and reaffirming the strong support of the United States Government for freedom of navigation and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region. H. Res. 714 was forwarded to the Full Committee, without amendment.

A NEW ERA OF U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS?

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a hearing entitled ''A New Era of U.S.-China Relations?''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

WORLDWIDE THREATS TO THE HOMELAND

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Worldwide Threats to the Homeland''. Testimony was heard from Jeh Johnson, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security; James B. Comey, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; and Matthew G. Olsen, Director, National Counterterrorism Center.

CHAPTER 12 OF TITLE 17

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet held a hearing on Chapter 12 of Title 17. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 5233, the ''Trade Secrets Protection Act of 2014''. H.R. 5233 was ordered reported, as amended.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on H.R. 5066, the ''Data Preservation Act of 2014''; and H.R. 5176, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to retire coal preference right lease applications for which the Secretary has made an affirmative commercial quantities determination, and for other purposes. Testimony was heard from Michael Nedd, Assistant Director, Energy, Minerals, and Realty Management, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a markup on the following legislation: H.R. 5142, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Jackson Street in Rich Square, North Carolina, as the ''Chief Joseph E. White, Jr. Post Office Building''; H.R. 5331, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73839 Gorgonio Drive in Twentynine Palms, California, as the ''Colonel M.J. 'Mac' Dube, USMC Post Office Building''; H.R. 5386, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the ''Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office''; H.R. 5468, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1103 USPS Building 1103 in Camp Pendleton, California, as the ''Camp Pendleton Medal of Honor Post Office''; H.R. 5229, the ''Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act of 2014''; and H.R. 5492, the ''Inspector General Empowerment Act of 2014''. H.R. 5492 was ordered reported, as amended. The following legislation was ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 5229, H.R. 5468, H.R. 5142, H.R. 5331, and H.R. 5386.

THE IRS TARGETING SCANDAL: CHANGING STORIES OF MISSING E-MAILS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Job Creation and Regulatory Affairs held a hearing entitled ''The IRS Targeting Scandal: Changing Stories of Missing E-mails''. Testimony was heard from John Koskinen, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service.

MEMBERS' DAY ON PROPOSED RULES CHANGES FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a Members' Day hearing on proposed rules changes for the 114th Congress. Testimony was heard from the following: Chairman Goodlatte and Representatives Scalise, Young of Alaska, Lummis, McClintock, Amash, Griffith of Virginia, Stivers, Woodall, Cooper, Norton, Larson of Connecticut, Honda, Speier, Cicilline, and Swalwell of California.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S CLIMATE PLAN: FAILURE BY DESIGN

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The Administration's Climate Plan: Failure by Design''. Testimony was heard from John Holdren, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President; and Janet McCabe, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation, Environmental Protection Agency.

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO ISSUE SUBPOENAS

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Oversight held a meeting on a resolution authorizing the Chairman to issue subpoenas. The subcommittee approved the resolution.

IS THE FCC RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF SMALL BUSINESS AND RURAL AMERICA?

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Is the FCC Responding to the Needs of Small Business and Rural America?''. Testimony was heard from Thomas Wheeler, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a markup on the following legislation: General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions; H.R. 5449, the ''Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2014''; H.R. 5146, to designate the United States courthouse located at 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the ''Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse''; H.R. 5448, the ''John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization Act of 2014''; H.R. 5266, to reauthorize the National Estuary Programs, and for other purposes; H.R. 4926, to designate the ''James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway'' and the ''James L. Oberstar National Scenic Byway'' in the State of Minnesota. The following legislation was ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 5266 and H.R. 4926. The following legislation was ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 5449, H.R. 5448, and H.R. 5146. The General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions were approved.

SCHEDULING MANIPULATION AND VETERAN DEATHS IN PHOENIX: EXAMINATION OF THE OIG'S FINAL REPORT

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Scheduling Manipulation and Veteran Deaths in Phoenix: Examination of the OIG's Final Report''. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Veterans Affairs officials: Richard J. Griffin, Acting Inspector General; Robert A. McDonald, Secretary; and Lisa Thomas, Chief of Staff, Veterans Health Administration; Katherine L. Mitchell, Medical Director, Iraq and Afghanistan Post-Deployment Center, Phoenix VA Health Care System; and a public witness.

DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS OFFERED BY PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYERS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures held a hearing on defined benefit pension plans offered by private sector employers. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

HEARING 1

Select Committee on Benghazi: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Hearing 1'', relating to Accountability Review Board implementation. Testimony was heard from Greg Starr, Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine assessing and enhancing protections in consumer financial services, 11 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: business meeting to consider GSA resolutions, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider the nomination of Carolyn Watts Colvin, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2019, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider an original bill entitled ''Ukraine Freedom Support Act'', S. 2778, to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards totaling up to $10,000,000 for information on the kidnapping and murder of James Foley and Steven Sotloff, S. Res. 530, expressing the sense of the Senate on the current situation in Iraq and the urgent need to protect religious minorities from persecution from the Sunni Islamist insurgent and terrorist group the Islamic State, formerly known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), as it expands its control over areas in northwestern Iraq, S. Res. 541, recognizing the severe threat that the Ebola outbreak in West Africa poses to populations, governments, and economies across Africa and, if not properly contained, to regions across the globe, and expressing support for those affected by this epidemic, S. Res. 540, recognizing September 15, 2014, as the International Day of Democracy, affirming the role of civil society as a cornerstone of democracy, and encouraging all governments to stand with civil society in the face of mounting restrictions on civil society organizations, and the nominations of Donald L. Heflin, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cabo Verde, Craig B. Allen, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, Stafford Fitzgerald Haney, of New Jersey, to

be Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica, Charles C. Adams, Jr., of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Finland, Earl Robert Miller, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Botswana, William V. Roebuck, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Judith Beth Cefkin, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Fiji, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu, Barbara A. Leaf, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Pamela Leora Spratlen, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uzbekistan, and a list in the Foreign Service, 2 p.m., S–116, Capitol.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine overcoming persistent barriers to economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities, 9:30 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine tax audits of large partnerships, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of Madeline Cox Arleo, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, Wendy Beetlestone, Mark A. Kearney, Joseph F. Leeson, Jr., and Gerald J. Pappert, all to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Victor Allen Bolden, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, Armando Ormar Bonilla, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, Stephen R. Bough, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, David J. Hale, and Gregory N. Stivers, both to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky, S. 1690, to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007, S. 2646, to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, S. 2520, to improve the Freedom of Information Act, and H.R. 1447, to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, 11 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive closed briefings on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry, hearing on the benefits of promoting soil health in agriculture and rural America, 11:30 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Administration's Strategy for the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)'', 11:15 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Suicide Prevention and Treatment: Helping Loved Ones in Mental Health Crisis'', 11:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The ISIS Threat: Weighing the Obama Administration's Response'', 11:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa; and Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, joint hearing entitled ''The Struggles of Recovering Assets for Holocaust Survivors'', 3 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Transportation Security, hearing entitled ''Safeguarding Privacy and Civil Liberties While Keeping our Skies Safe'', 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, hearing on oversight of the Drug Enforcement Administration, 11 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, hearing on oversight of the U.S. Copyright Office, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, markup on the following legislation: H.R. 69, the ''Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2013''; H.R. 706, the ''Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park Establishment Act''; H.R. 712, to extend the authorization of the Highlands Conservation Act through fiscal year 2024; H.R. 1363, the ''Exploring for Geothermal Energy on Federal Lands Act''; H.R. 1839, the ''Hermosa Creek Watershed Protection Act of 2013''; H.R. 3226, to remove from the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System certain properties in South Carolina; H.R. 3227, to remove from the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System certain properties in South Carolina; H.R. 3326, the ''Trinity County Land Exchange Act of 2013''; H.R. 3608, the ''Grand Portage Band Per Capita Adjustment Act''; H.R. 3980, the ''Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act''; H.R. 3981, the ''Accelerated Revenue, Repayment, and Surface Water Storage Enhancement Act''; H.R. 4166, the ''Lake Berryessa Recreation Enhancement Act of 2014''; H.R. 4534, the ''Native American Children's Safety Act''; H.R. 4846, the ''Arapaho National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 2014''; H.R. 5003, the ''Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 2014''; H.R. 5040, the ''Idaho County Shooting Range Land Conveyance Act''; H.R. 5049, the ''Blackfoot River Land Exchange Act of 2014''; H.R. 5050, the ''May 31, 1918 Act Repeal Act''; H.R. 5139, to correct the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Unit P16; H.R. 5162, to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to allow a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center'' to remove the use restriction, and for other purposes; H.R. 5167, to direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, to convey certain Federal property located in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to the Olgoonik Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; H.R. 5412, the ''Bureau of Reclamation Surface Water Storage Streamlining Act''; H.R. 5476, the ''Cabin Fee Act of 2014''; S. 363, the ''Geothermal Production Expansion Act of 2013''; and S. 609, the ''San Juan County Federal Land Conveyance Act'', 11 a.m. or conclusion of the Joint Session, whichever occurs later, 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Examining ObamaCare's Failures in Security, Accountability and Transparency'', 11 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on National Security, hearing entitled ''Protecting International Religious Freedom'', 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service, and the Census, hearing entitled ''U.S. Census Bureau: Addressing Data Collection Vulnerabilities'', 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Science of Dyslexia'', 11 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Health and Technology, hearing entitled ''An Update on the Small Business Health Options Program: Is It Working for Small Businesses?'', 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Threat Posed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), al-Qa'ida, and other Islamic Extremists'', 8 a.m., HVC–210.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, September 18

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will recess subject to the call of the Chair. When the Senate reconvenes, the Senate will be in a period of morning business.

At 1 p.m., Senate will begin consideration of H. J. Res. 124, Continuing Appropriations Resolution, with several roll call votes on or in relation to H. J. Res. 124 and nominations to begin at approximately 5:30 p.m.

(At 10 a.m., His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, will address a Joint Meeting of Congress from the Hall of the House of Representatives. Senators should begin to gather in the Senate Chamber at 9:30 a.m. to depart at 9:40 a.m.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, September 18

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Joint Meeting with the Senate to Receive His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine. Following the Joint Meeting, the House is expected to consider H.R. 2—American Energy Solutions for Lower Costs and More American Jobs Act (Subject to a Rule).

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