United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 161 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015 No. 57

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 20, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIAN SMITH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

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

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

You have blessed us with all good gifts, and with thankful hearts, we express our gratitude. You have created us with opportunities to serve other people in their need, to share together in respect and affection, and to be faithful in the responsibilities we have been given.

In this moment of prayer, please grant to the Members of this people's House, as they meet with their respective constituents, the gifts of wisdom and discernment that in their words and actions they will do justice, love with mercy, and walk humbly with You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF MEMBER OF THE OFFICE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from a staff member of the Office of the 18th Congressional District of Illinois:

MARCH 31, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for testimony, issued by the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois.

After consultation with counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

SHEA LEDFORD.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 14, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for documents, issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

ED CASSIDY,
Chief Administrative Officer.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House stands adjourned until noon tomorrow for morning-hour debate.

There was no objection.

Thereupon (at 2 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 21, 2015, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

1209. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 14-108; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1210. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 14-134; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1211. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 14-136; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1212. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-009; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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1213. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-002; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1214. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 14-126; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 152. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement to provide for management of the free-roaming wild horses in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge (Rept. 114–84). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 471. A bill to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–85, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Concurrent Resolution 21. A resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby (Rept. 114–86). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Concurrent Resolution 25. A resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition (Rept. 114–87). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 471 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

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. CARNEY:

H.R. 1894. A bill to authorize the extension of preferential tariff treatment for certain textile goods imported from Morocco; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 1895. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit oil and gas preleasing, leasing, and related activities in certain areas of the Outer Continental Shelf off the coast of Florida, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. POLIS (for himself, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. DEUTCH):

H.R. 1896. A bill to amend chapter 26 of title 35, United States Code, to require the disclosure of information related to patent ownership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. CARNEY:

H.R. 1894.

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 Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 1895.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 & 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. POLIS:

H.R. 1896.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 of the U.S. Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 592: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania and Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 625: Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 663: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 702: Mr. HILL.

H.R. 831: Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 835: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 985: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 1178: Mr. DOLD and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 1222: Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 1282: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1427: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 1433: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 1478: Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 1603: Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 1624: Mr. COLLINS of New York and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 1625: Ms. SINEMA and Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 1674: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. HASTINGS, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 1685: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 1742: Mr. BUCSHON and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 1760: Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 1810: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1882: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia and Ms. LEE.

H.J. Res. 42: Mr. RATCLIFFE.

H. Res. 210: Mr. ROHRABACHER and Mr. COOK.

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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM COTTON, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we praise Your greatness, might, and majesty. You own all that is in Heaven and Earth. Both riches and honor come from You. Your compassion never fails. Today, use our lawmakers as instruments of Your purposes. Lord, give them the wisdom and courage for the living of these challenging days. May they find encouragement in the knowledge that the full harvest of their labors is yet to come. Unite them in the common endeavor of making America a beacon of freedom for our world. May their thoughts, words, and actions honor You.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 20, 2015.

To the Senate:

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

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COTTON thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

LYNCH NOMINATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it has been 164 days—164 very long, long days, especially for a woman by the name of Loretta Lynch. Her nomination is languishing here in the Republican limbo that they have created. For 6 months Senate Republicans have looked for any and every reason to push back confirmation of this good woman to be Attorney General.

Does anyone know why? Can a single Republican Senator tell us why? The answer is no. Her qualifications are impeccable. She has some bipartisan support. But again, for unknown reasons, Republican support seems to be disappearing. Is there a single Republican Senator who can come here to the Senate floor and give an explanation that does not absolutely smack of political foolishness?

Republicans do not know why Loretta Lynch has not yet been confirmed—just listen to what Congressman PETER KING said. By the way, PETER KING is a Republican from New York.

All you've heard from our party for a very long time is how much contempt they have for Holder. Now they're presented with Loretta Lynch, who is by far the best attorney general they could ever have expected this President to appoint, and they still hold the thing up. . . . And for what? Because they think it scores them a few political points? With whom?

That is the irony of it all. Republicans have held Ms. Lynch's nomination hostage for nothing more than political purposes. Here is something I will read to the people within the sound of my voice, which is a direct quote from the New York Daily News editorial.

The Republicans in the Senate, the meanest and most narrow-minded among them occasionally acting as if they want the Democrats to have the White House into the next century, need to free Loretta Lynch this week.

They need to stop using abortion language in an anti-trafficking bill for cover, they need to stop using Lynch's support for President Obama on immigration as cover, they need to stop insulting Lynch the way they have for months as they have delayed a vote on confirming her as our next attorney general for the simple reason that they can.

The issue here was never Loretta Lynch's policies, always about President Obama's. They have used her to get at him, because to the end they remain obsessed with getting at him. No wonder Jeb Bush stood up for Lynch in New Hampshire. Bush didn't just show grace in doing that, he also showed more common sense than his brother showed in eight years as President.

Jeb Bush has to know that Sen. Mitch McConnell hijacking this process does him absolutely no good, the way it does him no good to have McConnell as an important voice and face of the Republican Party. As long as McConnell is, too many voters completely wide-open about the upcoming Presidential campaign will continue to think the party is still owned and operated by scrubs who think they can push around Loretta Lynch for sport.

''Pushing around Loretta Lynch for sport'' is certainly how it seems. How else can you explain the Republicans changing the subject every time her name comes up? Every time Ms. Lynch's confirmation is discussed, they change the subject. Every time when asked, Republicans deflect: ''next Congress'' or ''after Keystone'' or ''after we try and shut down Homeland Security,'' and, of course, the newest, ''after trafficking.''

President Obama put it best last Friday when he said:

Nobody can describe a reason for it beyond political gamesmanship in the Senate. I have

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

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to say that there are times where the dysfunction in the Senate just goes too far. This is an example of it.

He said: ''This is embarrassing.''

It is embarrassing. It is embarrassing for the Senate and for our Nation. Even Republicans—I should say some Republicans—are embarrassed. They know there is no rationale for delaying a vote for America's chief law enforcement officer. There is no reason that we cannot confirm Loretta Lynch today—right now, even. There is nothing preventing the majority leader from coming to the Senate floor immediately and moving the Senate into executive session for consideration of Ms. Lynch's nomination.

Why then is the majority leader determined to make her wait until after the trafficking legislation is approved? Why? We are now spending the first 2 weeks of this current work period finishing two matters—human trafficking and her nomination. These two matters could have been completed months ago. Everyone is aware of what has transpired with the human trafficking bill.

It is sufficient to say that Republicans tried to pull a fast one on the American people. Republicans attempted to broaden a precedent that traditionally prevents Federal funds for paying for abortion, except in cases of rape, incest, and when the life of the mother is at risk. This is commonly known as the Hyde language. The Hyde language has applied to taxpayer dollars. Republicans want to change that to apply to nontaxpayer dollars.

It was a failed political ploy, and it is no surprise, then, that the Republicans are scrambling to save their necks after trying to dupe American women. My Republican colleagues appear to be close to seeing the light on human trafficking, and there seems to be a path forward. But there is no guarantee that we can do it. As of right now, we do not have an agreement in place to put the finishing touches on our work on the bill. But we are working on that goal. The progress we have made is due almost entirely to the good-faith efforts of Senators MURRAY, LEAHY, and AMY KLOBUCHAR.

When are Republicans going to see the light on Loretta Lynch? When will the majority leader realize he continues to obstruct a qualified nominee for absolutely no reason? The Senate should turn to a vote on Ms. Lynch's nomination immediately. Every day that passes without a newly confirmed Attorney General proves once and again that Republicans cannot lead and they certainly cannot govern.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2015

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 178, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 178) to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

Pending:

McConnell (for Cornyn) amendment No. 1120, to strengthen the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act by incorporating additional bipartisan amendments.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

LYNCH NOMINATION

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, as we all know, a vote of confirmation for Loretta Lynch to be our next Attorney General has now been delayed 164 days, or 5 months. We have seen this qualified woman waiting for a confirmation vote, and we have had at least 51 Members—a majority—indicating they will support her confirmation.

I remember coming to the floor listening to colleagues during the Bush administration state over and over again that elections have consequences, that Presidents have a right to have their nominees voted on, and that it is our responsibility to make sure, if something comes out of committee, that we vote on a final confirmation.

When we look at the fact that we have seen Loretta Lynch wait for a vote on the floor for a combined length of time that equals more than the last seven Attorneys General, I really do believe, as the President has said, enough is enough.

I remember a time when we had a controversial nominee—John Ashcroft—and many of us did not support that nomination. I did not support that nomination. But we brought it to the floor for a vote. He waited 42 days. At the time, people said that was a long time. He was not blocked. We did not filibuster. We did not require a supermajority. In fact, there were 42 of us who voted no, so we could have stopped it on a procedural vote. But we allowed the nomination of John Ashcroft to come to the floor for a vote.

So we fast-forward. And we have seen this, of course, over and over again, as we look at the President's nominees in the last 6½ years. Now we see this eminently qualified woman, who has been held up as of today 164 days, waiting and waiting to have the opportunity to have a vote up or down on confirmation. If people want to vote no, they have that right, but she deserves a vote.

Today, we are going to vote on the confirmation of a district court judge in Texas. I think it is good that the Southern District of Texas will have a Federal court judge, but the entire country needs a permanent Attorney General. In fact, the Attorney General's office is the one that actually brings the cases to Federal courts and tries them on behalf of all the American people. So it is really ridiculous that we stand at this point where we are having to ask, after more than 5 months, that there be a vote for Loretta Lynch.

After she was reported out, we saw a very distinguished nominee for Secretary of Defense come out of committee and immediately come to the floor and be confirmed, but Loretta Lynch has waited and waited. We continue to vote on district judges, and Loretta Lynch is waiting and waiting.

We hear all kinds of excuses, all kinds of reasons. We are hearing that Loretta Lynch's nomination to be Attorney General cannot be voted on until we complete another very important bill—the human trafficking bill—that we all want to get done. It has, unfortunately, had a curve ball added because of the politics around choice and abortion that has been interjected into this, and we are having to work our way through that. I have been involved in a lot of discussions, as my colleagues have. I am confident we can address those if people want to get this done on behalf of girls and women in our country. But that has nothing to do with the nomination of Loretta Lynch for Attorney General, other than one thing, which is that as U.S. attorney of the Eastern District of New York, she presided over a very effective antitrafficking program, investigating and prosecuting scores of defendants.

In that sense, again, we need Loretta Lynch—her talent, her expertise, and her experience—to be able to tackle what is a horrible situation that way too many of our girls and women find themselves in. We somehow for too long have thought this was something that was happening someplace else. Yet we saw it in Lansing, MI—where I live, the capital of Michigan—where there was a case in the trafficking situation that the FBI and local officials addressed. What we are finding right now is that as we proceed with confirming other people for other positions—Monday nights we are voting on other positions, we are voting on district judges, and we voted on other people for other positions not held up by human trafficking, not held up by trying to get that bill resolved, but for some reason the Attorney General position has somehow been held up.

I don't buy it. It makes no sense that we would pick one person—one person—not others but one person and decide that this person and this nomination, this confirmation vote will be held hostage to another issue. It is time to stop it. Now, 164 days is long enough; 164 days is long enough. It is time to give Loretta Lynch the respect and the vote she has been waiting for and she deserves.

I yield back the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes as in morning business.

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

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, this body—the Senate—continues to rush through one of the most consequential changes to U.S. economic policy this decade with little media attention, little scrutiny by committees, and little discussion from leadership of this Senate. Last week, we were called into a rushed legislative hearing on fast-track and a trade package with little notice and no bill to see. We had less than 13 hours' notice for a committee meeting—the standard here is 1 week, and I believe that is the Senate rule—on one of the most secretive documents we have seen in front of us. Senators and their staffs, Congress men and women and their staffs, have limited access to this document—the Trans-Pacific Partnership—and no access to legislation upon which we had a hearing on Thursday. It was only after the hearing that they finally decided to introduce the bill. Yet, this affects more than 50 percent of the world's GDP. Fifty percent of the world's GDP could be affected by this package. Millions of American jobs are on the line. Yet, Congress is rushing this bill through.

We cannot fast-track fast-track legislation. We know what so-called free trade has done to this country. It may not affect too many people who dress like this in this town, people who wear expensive suits, but for those in the heartland and in places such as Des Moines and Iowa City and Columbus and Cleveland, we know bad trade deals have devastated towns.

I grew up in Mansfield, OH. When I was a kid, we had thousands of jobs at Westinghouse, Ohio Brass, Mansfield Tire, Fisher Body, Goreman-Rupp, and so many other companies. Almost all of those companies have shut down—not just because of globalization and bad trade deals, but certainly that contributed to it. Every one of those companies that hasn't shut down has laid off, in most cases, thousands of its workers.

On Friday, I was in Dayton, where I spoke with Jimmy Allen. Jimmy worked at Appleton Paper for 45 years. He was a union officer for 43 of those years. He was one of 400 workers laid off due to unfair trade in 2012 when China cheated on currency, undermining the U.S. paper industry.

I hear all the time from workers like Jimmy. George Rossi of Warren, OH—at the other end of the State—wrote to me to share his story. He wrote:

> My wife lost her job of 15 years at GE in Ravenna, OH because of foreign trade. The plant that once employed 600 is now closed. My brother-in-law lost his [job] at Ohio Lamp in Warren, which is now closed. My plant, WCI Steel, is now closed. At one time the plant employed 1,800 people.

George wrote: I could go on and on. There have been many friends and family, so many who have worked in numerous plants that are now closed—in large part because of bad foreign trade deals.

Jamie Vaughan wrote to me saying that Jamie's father and Jamie's grandfather worked at Ford in Canton, OH, until it shut down. Jamie's father was able to transfer to Indianapolis, where Jamie and Jamie's brother also worked, until that Ford plant shut down too. Jamie wrote:

> They built a plant exactly like Indy's in Brazil. My brother and I transferred to California. A few years later, that plant shut down.

I got a letter from Gary Ordway of Continental, OH, about how factory closures have ripple effects across entire communities. He wrote:

> In 1995 I was employed with General Motors Powertrain Foundry in Defiance, OH, where we were working 12 hours a day, 6 to 7 days a week, and then along came the North American Free Trade Agreement. There were over 5,000 employees working at that time, and after NAFTA there was a constant loss of jobs, so today, there are about 1,000 employees left. We are looking at a weekly loss of $4.8 million in wages to the local economy and around $1.2 million in weekly taxes lost due to the 4,000 jobs exported because of NAFTA. Within the next couple of years the foundry will be losing all of its iron castings and another 350 jobs will be eliminated, and Plant One is scheduled to be torn town. So NAFTA wasn't good for our community and foundry because our iron casting business went to Mexico.

That was Gary Ordway of northwest Ohio. We have seen it in the northwest and we have seen it in the southwest.

Joseph Hicks from Elyria, OH, wrote:

> I am a member of Local 1104 in Lorain. I work at U.S. Steel tubular division. As of the 22nd of March, me and 600 of my brothers and sisters have been placed on indefinite layoff, some departments idled, due to lack of work. This is mainly [because of] the illegal dumping of cheaply-made steel.

I would add, subsidized steel.

> Foreign countries cut corners on safety, pay workers next to nothing, and don't care about quality. With these ingredients, they are able to sell their steel products for a lot less than we at U.S. steel can.
>
> There used to be a time when ''Made in America'' meant something. I long to see that be the attitude again.

Joseph goes on:

> I am suffering greatly now because of the trickle-down effect. I am laid off, I have lost my job, my career, my way of life to support my growing and deserving family. I have a wife, Megan, [who] cannot work because she has to care for our 2-year-old disabled daughter.
>
> I ask, beg, our public officials . . . do what needs to be done to get American workers back to work.

That is Joseph from U.S. Steel in Lorain.

We owe these workers more than rushed hearings. We owe them more than to rubberstamp a deal we have barely been able to read. Keep in mind that we didn't see this bill until Thursday night. We have still not had one hearing on this bill to discuss the bill. The chairman of the committee wants to do the markup the day after tomorrow, and this bill will govern potentially 60 percent of the world's GDP. So they want to fast-track this fast-track legislation so they can pass more trade agreements that outsource jobs.

Trade done right can create jobs, but our current trade deals amount to corporate handouts and worker sellouts.

The Economic Policy Institute found that the wage loss to workers on the wrong end of expanded trade is almost certainly larger than the estimated net national gains from the TPP. They write that there is no such thing as an all-gain, no-pain treaty. We know that is true because workers such as Joseph and Jamie and George and Gary and Jimmy feel that pain.

I urge my colleagues over the next couple of days to ask the tough questions and demand answers from the U.S. Trade Representative, who has told us little and who has given us even less access to these trade agreements, and to say no to a trade deal that will end up fast-tracking more jobs overseas.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR EN BLOC—H.R. 636, H.R. 644, H.R. 1295, H.R. 1314, AND S. 984

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I understand there are five bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bills by title for the second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

> A bill (H.R. 636) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes.
>
> A bill (H.R. 644) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory.
>
> A bill (H.R. 1295) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the process for making determinations with respect to whether organizations are exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of such Code.
>
> A bill (H.R. 1314) 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.
>
> A bill (S. 984) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceeding en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASSIDY. 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 senior Senator from Louisiana.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE DEEPWATER HORIZON TRAGEDY

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I rise today to solemnly observe the 5-year anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon oilspill, also known as the BP disaster. It was a major and deeply tragic incident that resulted in the loss of 11 lives in the Gulf of Mexico and beyond that really devastated the gulf region.

I wish to start where we should always start—by remembering in a solemn and prayerful way the 11 men who lost their lives in the incident. They were Donald ''Duck'' Clark, 49, of Newellton, LA; Stephen Ray Curtis, 40, of Georgetown, LA; Gordon Jones, 28, of Baton Rouge, LA; Roy Wyatt Kemp, 27, of Jonesville, LA; Keith Blair Manuel, 56, of Gonzalez, LA; Jason Anderson, 35, of Midfield, TX; Adam Weise, 24, of Yorktown, TX; Aaron Dale Durkeen, 37, of Philadelphia, MS; Karl Kleppinger, Jr., 38, of Natchez, MS; Dewey Revette, 48, of State Line, MS; and Shane Roshto, 22, of Liberty, MS. We lift up those men and their families in our prayers, and we will continue to keep those men whose lives were lost and continue to keep their families in our fervent thoughts and prayers.

While 5 years have passed, the effects of the Deepwater Horizon tragedy are still felt today in communities all along the gulf coast. The terrible and unnecessary loss of life, the harming of our precious coastal ecosystems, and the persisting economic burdens serve as a constant reminder of the failures that led to the spill, as well as the lessons learned in the 5 years since.

Poor industry and government oversight and the failure by many involved to enforce safety regulations were largely responsible for multiple mistakes leading up to the tragedy. As a result, we have learned many lessons on how to prevent future accidents such as this. The first is that the lives and safety of the men and women who work in this field are absolutely paramount and need to be kept so, and the Federal and State safety standards overseeing them should reflect that as a priority.

Changes are needed, and the Federal agencies that oversee and regulate the offshore energy industry must communicate clearly with State and local governments and impacted industries. They must also do a better job of enforcing strong, necessary safety and environmental standards.

It is also important that we prevent the administration or any future administration from having knee-jerk reactions to incidents such as this. Each gulf coast community remembers the devastating effects of the offshore drilling moratorium that followed the disaster—something that was completely unnecessary, including in the opinion of so many experts. Once the Obama administration imposed this unnecessary drilling moratorium, that decision had crippling results for Louisiana and Gulf State economies. When accidents such as this spill happen, there needs to be a calculated, logical, and immediate response in order to replace ineffective regulations with rules that focus on preserving lives and protecting the environment. It is imperative that we prevent shortsighted Federal mandates and thoughtless regulations that hinder regional recovery and destroy local economies instead.

We also learned that there needs to be a clear and specific judicial penalty process in place in order to ensure that claims can be efficiently filed and finalized in order to let those who are affected by such disasters return to some sense of normalcy, day-to-day normalcy, and economic normalcy as quickly as possible. This should include insuring responsible parties such as BP are timely in paying their judicially and statutorily mandated fines and penalties. There is absolutely no excuse that 5 years later gulf residents, in many cases, are still waiting for the responsible parties to fulfill their legal obligations, including under the RESTORE Act.

As we remember the Deepwater Horizon tragedy today, let us renew our commitment to work on all of these matters and to finish the work that is left to do as our gulf coastlines and economies continue to recover.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, 5 years ago today, 11 Americans were lost when the Deepwater Horizon exploded off the gulf coast. I would like to name them. This is hard. These were the people we grew up with. I apologize for being emotional, but these are our neighbors, and so to remember them—Jason Anderson 35, Midfield, TX. Jason had two kids, and his wife Shelley said that Thanksgiving was his favorite holiday.

Aaron Dale ''Bubba'' Burkeen, 37, of Philadelphia, MS. He passed on his wedding anniversary and 4 days before his birthday. He was married with two children.

Donald Clark, 49, of Newellton, LA. Husband to Sheila with four kids. He was a fisherman. To honor him on the anniversary of his death, his family says a prayer and releases balloons over a lake in his favorite color, which is sky blue.

Stephen Ray Curtis, 40, of Georgetown, LA. Stephen was married and the father of two teenagers.

Gordon Jones of Baton Rouge, LA. Gordon was 28. His wife was Michelle. His son Max was born 3 weeks after Gordon passed. An oak tree was planted on the LSU campus on the path where he ran.

Roy Wyatt Kemp, 27, of Jonesville, LA. He was married to Courtney and father of one child.

Karl Kleppinger, Jr., 38, of Natchez, MS. He was a veteran of the first gulf war and the father of one.

Keith Blair Manuel, 56, of Gonzales, LA. Keith had three daughters, was a big fan of LSU sports, and had football and basketball season tickets.

Dewey A. Revette, 48, of State Line, MS. His wife was Sherri. They had been married for 26 years.

Shane M. Roshto, 22, of Liberty, MS. He was the youngest of the men who died. His wife was Natalie, and his son is Blaine.

Adam Weise, 24, of Yorktown, TX. Adam drove 10 hours to Louisiana every 3 weeks to work on the rig. He was a high school football star and spent his off time hunting and fishing.

We pray that the families find peace in the memories of their sons, husbands, and fathers.

The spill was the worst in our Nations's history, and while the consequences of this spill are still seen, it is our task to live forward and, in so doing, honor the memory of these men and provide a better future for their families.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a moment of silence to honor their memory.

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

(Moment of silence.)

Mr. CASSIDY. Thank you, Madam President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEEPWATER HORIZON TRAGEDY

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, it is 5 in the afternoon. Exactly 5 years ago, at 5 p.m., the crew of the Deepwater Horizon mobile oil drilling unit began what is called a negative pressure test of the Macondo prospect oil formation. A cascade of menacing events followed the first failed test.

At around 9:40 that evening, drilling mud began gushing out onto the rig. The well had kicked. The crew activated the rig's blowout preventer 1 mile below the surface of the Gulf of Mexico, down at the bottom of the gulf.

Tragically, the blowout preventer failed. At 9:49 p.m., there was an explosion on the rig floor. The Deepwater Horizon rig quickly became an inferno. Eleven men died. Eleven families were changed forever.

As morning came the next day, an oil sheen 2 miles long and a half mile wide shone on the surface of the waters of the gulf as the blaze on the rig continued. Those images are seared into our collective mind's eyes. So the owner of the well, BP, and the owner and operator of the rig, Transocean, tried and failed again to close the blowout preventer that evening. Then days later, on Earth Day, April 22, at 10:22 a.m., the rig on the surface of the gulf sank.

If we can remember, we were first told the sheen that was 2 miles long and a half mile wide came from the drums of diesel onboard the rig. Then later, a revision was made that 1,000 barrels of oil a day were leaking from the well a mile below the surface of the gulf. Then that was changed to 5,000 barrels of oil per day and then to 25,000 barrels of oil a day. But none of those estimates were true. Scientists looking at the sheen from aerial observations started to grow very skeptical about what BP engineers were telling them.

On the environment committee, Chairman BOXER and I started to turn up the public pressure to get BP to turn over live footage of 1 mile below the surface of the gulf, where the oil was escaping. We wanted to see how much oil the cameras were showing was escaping from the well. The spill was not out of mind; it was out of sight. As it turned out, unbelievably, 62,000 barrels of oil a day were gushing into the gulf into what is one of our most productive ecosystems on the planet. But we would never have gotten that had scientists not been able to make their estimates by virtue of the live-streaming video that Senator BOXER and I put up on our Web sites so people—unencumbered, around the globe—could make their estimates. This is a prime example of why we must independently verify what oil companies tell us about a spill.

As we got into the summer, the prime of the summer beach season, especially at our beaches in Florida, that was devastating. Nearly 37 percent of gulf waters were closed to fishing. BP and its contractors had no control of the runaway well. On July 15, in the middle of the summer—87 days after the explosion—BP finally stopped the oil flow.

Today is the anniversary. Our hearts collectively go out to the families that lost the 11 men.

If we don't learn from this experience, shame on us. It will come back to haunt us, and in many ways it already has.

If we start at the bottom of the food chain, there are impacts to the gulf environment. Bull minnows, or killifish—little fish about that size—root around in the sediment of the bays of Louisiana. In those oiled Louisiana marshes, these little killifish are showing grotesquely deformed gill tissue. And when the killifish embryos were exposed to oil sediment, they showed heart defects, and many failed to hatch.

Two LSU professors told me shortly after they had done the research about a year after the spill that they found that the killifish in their reproductive cycle were mutated. They compared them to the killifish in the bays that did not have the oil come in, and there was a distinct difference between the two.

As we go up the food chain, the top predators face threats from the oil. Scientists have found unusual lung damage, hormone abnormalities, and low blood cell counts up the food chain in dolphins that were exposed to the oil. And we are not going to know the full extent of the impact for years, even decades.

As a matter of fact, somebody said a few months after the BP spill had been contained that there was no more oil in the gulf. There is a lot of oil in the gulf. We just can't see it. It is down there a mile below the surface. And what are the effects on the health, the future health of the gulf? We don't know, but we are going to have to research it.

But even with all we learned back in 2010, to this very day, oil infrastructure in the gulf—this is just unbelievable—operated by the Taylor Energy Company continues to leak crude oil since one of the hurricanes years ago. In 2004, a hurricane caused an underwater mudslide that damaged a cluster of oil wells off of Louisiana. Need I remind the Senate, June 1 is the beginning of hurricane season. So if we are visited by another hurricane, and if it does as it did in 2004, 11 years ago, having a cluster of Taylor wells that got buried in an undersea mudslide from the hurricane—but the wells are still leaking 11 years later—what is going to happen to other oil structures in the gulf if the big one comes?

According to the Associated Press investigation, the actual flow rate of those Taylor wells may be 20 times higher than originally reported. We have seen this episode before. I don't think we want to repeat this.

It is so frightening. I asked the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of the Interior to provide any and all images of the Taylor spill. The Congress, in our oversight responsibility, has the right to that information. We have to know how much oil is escaping, and then we have to figure out how to stop it from underneath the undersea mudslide that covered up that cluster of wells.

In the coming weeks in the Senate commerce committee we are going to examine what we have learned in 5 years since the Deepwater Horizon explosion. In 2012, our bipartisan RESTORE Act got overwhelming votes in both the House and the Senate. The RESTORE Act is a formula with which to send the money that ultimately Judge Barbier of the Federal district court in New Orleans will decide as a result of the number of barrels spilled and the culpability of the company. As a result of that, money will flow. It will flow back to the local governments, it will flow back to help the economies of the gulf, and it will flow back in order to try to protect our environment. There is more to be done. I intend to introduce legislation to make sure we prevent, prepare for, and effectively respond to the next oil spill.

As we reflect on the tragic events of April 20, 2010, I hope the Senate will be mindful of this tragedy in the gulf, which riveted the attention of the Nation, that seemed out of control for 3 months, and of which we will have the very infernal consequences for years to come.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Will the Senator withhold his request?

Mr. NELSON. Of course.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF GEORGE C. HANKS, JR., TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of George C. Hanks, Jr., of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there is 16 minutes of debate remaining on the nomination.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, do I have 15 minutes?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, tonight, the Senate will vote on the nomination of George Hanks to be a district judge for the Southern District of Texas. If confirmed, Judge Hanks will be the President's 309th judicial nominee confirmed since this President took office. By comparison, at the same point in his Presidency, President Bush had only 273 judicial nominees confirmed.

Despite some of the complaints that we are hearing from my colleagues on the other side, we are moving judicial nominees at about the same pace as we did at this point in President Bush's Presidency. One difference, of course, is how the Senate handled the judicial nominees that were reported out of the committee during the lameduck session.

Historically, the Senate doesn't confirm judges at the end of a Congress if those judges are reported out of committee during a lameduck. The reason for this, of course, is so the newly elected Members have an opportunity for their voices to be heard. For instance, that is what happened in 2006 when the Senate returned 13 judicial nominees to the President. Those nominees were then renominated in 2007 and eventually confirmed in the new Congress, but the Senate Democrats did not follow tradition last year. Instead of following standard practice, Senate Democrats confirmed 11 judicial nominees who were reported out of committee during the lameduck session. Had they followed standard practice, we would have voted on those nominees at the beginning of this year, just as the committee did with the nominees that were resubmitted in 2007.

At the end of the day, when we include the 11 district court nominees who were confirmed at the end of last year, we are at about the same pace that the Democratically led Senate was in 2007 during the Bush administration. This is further confirmed when you compare the committee's work this year to 2007. In 2007, at this point in the Congress, the committee had held three nominee hearings for a total of 10 judges.

As of right now, the Judiciary Committee has already held 4 nomination hearings for a total of 10 nominees. These nominees include six judges and four executive nominees, including both the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General nominees.

The bottom line is the Senate Judiciary Committee is treating the President's nominees extremely fairly. He has had dozens more nominees confirmed than President Bush did at this point in his Presidency. I expect another one will be confirmed tonight, and I congratulate Judge Hanks on his pending nomination and urge my colleagues to vote accordingly.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, we will be voting to confirm Judge George Hanks, who has been nominated to be a Federal district judge in the Southern District of Texas. Judge Hanks is just the second judicial nominee that we have voted to confirm more than 3 months into the 114th Congress. The slow trickle of confirmations that the new majority has allowed is undermining the functioning of our Federal courts and is hurting the American people. This past month, the Wall Street Journal wrote an alarming article about the backlog of civil cases in our Federal courts. One man interviewed for the article filed a Federal law suit in 2007 and is still waiting for his case to be heard. It is unconscionable that an American would have to wait 8 years and still not have his day in court. Unfortunately, it is not surprising given that at last count, there were more than 330,000 civil cases pending in our Federal courts. This is a record high and an increase of nearly 20 percent since 2004.

There are steps the Republican majority should take to help our Federal courts better serve the American people. First, the Senate should confirm every single one of the nine judicial nominees on the Executive Calendar without further delay. Besides Judge Hanks, there are two other Federal district court nominees pending on the Executive Calendar, both from States with two Republican home State Senators. Both of those nominees were reported out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously by voice vote. One of the nominees will fill a judicial emergency vacancy in Texas that has remained unfilled for more than 2 years. This type of neglect is unacceptable. In addition, there are five other nominees to the Court of Federal Claims and a nominee for the Court of International Trade. None of these nominees are controversial and they could easily be confirmed by a simple voice vote if Republicans would allow.

After today's confirmation vote, there will be 53 vacancies on our Federal courts. But even if we filled every one of these vacancies, we still would have to address the growing needs of our co-equal branch of government that is struggling with heavy caseloads. Last month, the Judicial Conference of the United States, led by Chief Justice John Roberts, identified the need for adding 73 permanent judgeships, as well as converting 9 temporary district court judgeships to permanent status. The Senate should be working in a bipartisan manner to provide the Federal Judiciary with the resources it needs, including the addition of woefully-needed additional judgeships.

The fact that today we are only voting on the second judicial nominee of this Congress shows that the delay and obstruction that we saw from Republicans in the first 6 years of the Obama administration has continued now that they control the Senate's agenda. One simply needs to look at the nomination of Loretta Lynch to understand how Republicans approach our constitutional role of advice and consent. Ms. Lynch is an eminently qualified nominee and enjoys broad support, yet her nomination has now been pending before the full Senate for 53 days. That is more than twice as long as all of the past seven Attorneys General combined: Richard Thornburgh, 1 day; William Barr, 5 days; Janet Reno, 1 day; John Ashcroft, 2 days, Alberto Gonzales, 8 days; Michael Mukasey, 2 days; and Eric Holder, 5 days. This delay is an embarrassment for the United States Senate. I agree with President Obama, who said last week that "there are times where the dysfunction in the Senate just goes too far." The obstruction of this historic nominee has gone on far too long. It is long past time for the Senate Republican leader to allow Ms. Lynch a vote and allow the American people to be served by this outstanding public servant.

The judicial nominee we are voting on today, Judge George Hanks, will fill a Federal district court vacancy in the Southern District of Texas. Since 2010, Judge Hanks has served as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of Texas. Prior to joining the Federal bench, Judge Hanks was a Court of Appeals Justice for the First District of Texas from 2002 to 2010, and a judge on the 157th Civil District Court of Texas from 2001 to 2002. Before becoming a judge, he was in private practice for nearly a decade. The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated him "Well Qualified," its highest rating. Judge Hanks is supported by his two Republican home State Senators and his nomination was unanimously approved by voice vote by the Judiciary Committee on February 26. He has strong qualifications and should be confirmed without further delay.

I urge the Republican Leader to schedule votes to confirm the remaining judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar. None of the nominees are controversial. We should do our jobs and vote on their nominations so that they can start doing their jobs working for the American people.

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

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

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of George C. Hanks, Jr., of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas?

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 91, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 155 Ex.]

YEAS—91

Ayotte	Franken	Nelson
Baldwin	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Perdue
Bennet	Grassley	Peters
Blumenthal	Hatch	Portman
Booker	Heinrich	Reed
Boozman	Heitkamp	Reid
Boxer	Heller	Risch
Brown	Hirono	Roberts
Burr	Hoeven	Rounds
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sanders
Capito	Isakson	Sasse
Cardin	Johnson	Schatz
Carper	Kaine	Schumer
Casey	King	Scott
Cassidy	Kirk	Sessions
Cochran	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Collins	Lankford	Shelby
Coons	Leahy	Stabenow
Corker	Lee	Tester
Cornyn	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	Markey	Tillis
Crapo	McCain	Udall
Daines	McCaskill	Vitter
Donnelly	McConnell	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Enzi	Merkley	Whitehouse
Ernst	Mikulski	Wicker
Feinstein	Moran	Wyden
Fischer	Murphy	
Flake	Murray	

NOT VOTING—9

Alexander	Cruz	Rubio
Blunt	Graham	Sullivan
Coats	Murkowski	Toomey

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

The Senator from Wyoming.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

The Senator from Rhode Island.

CONGRATULATING THE PROVIDENCE COLLEGE MEN'S ICE HOCKEY TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2015 NCAA DIVISION I NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I stand with great pleasure and pride, along with Senator WHITEHOUSE, to congratulate the Providence College men's hockey team in winning the 2015 NCAA Division I National Championship, and I am pleased to have worked with my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE in adopting a resolution last week to honor this great accomplishment.

This is the first national championship in the history of PC's men's hockey club, and I am sure this season will be long remembered by Providence College players, coaches, staff, and fans.

The championship game featured phenomenal plays and contributions from many Friars players, including a career-high 49 saves by goaltender Jon Gillies, and one goal each from Anthony Florentino, Mark Jankowski, Tom Parisi, and Brandon Tanev.

I would like to congratulate all of the Friars players whose season-long hard work and dedication made this successful season possible. The 2015 PC men's hockey team consisted of: Rhode Island's own Noel Acciari, Mark Adams, Brooks Behling, Alex Cromwell, Logan Day, Stefan Demopoulos, Nick Ellis, Anthony Florentino, Jon Gillies, John Gilmour, Robbie Hennessey, Mark Jankowski, Brendan Leahy, Shane Luke, Conor MacPhee, Ross Mauermann, Kyle McKenzie, Steven McParland, Trevor Mingoia, Josh Monk, Tom Perisi, Brian Pinho, Truman Reed, Kevin Rooney, Niko Rufo, Nick Saracino, Brandon Tanev, and Jake Walman. I will apologize for my Rhode Island accent.

I would also like to extend my best wishes to PC player Drew Brown, who missed this season while battling a rare form of bone cancer and is thankfully now reported to be cancer-free. But he contributed in many ways to the success of the team.

Additionally, I want to recognize the coaches and staff whose commitment and preparation was essential to winning this national championship, especially head coach Nate Leaman, who won the championship in only his fourth season at PC. The other coaches and staff of the 2015 PC men's hockey team were: associate head coach Steve Miller, assistant coach Kris Mayotte, coordinator of Men's Hockey operations Kyle Murphy, and goaltending coach Jim McNiff.

I also commend Providence College President Father Brian Shanley and athletic director Robert Driscoll on their accomplishments and extraordinary dedication to the school and to the community of Rhode Island.

Again, I join many in the State of Rhode Island and around the hockey world in congratulating the Providence College men's ice hockey team on their incredible national championship season and wish them continued success in the future.

I am proud to yield the floor to my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am very pleased and also very proud to follow the senior Senator and my colleague and to join Senator REED in congratulating our Providence College men's ice hockey team on winning its first-ever national championship. The Friars edged out Boston University 4 to 3 a week ago Saturday night in PC's first trip to the Frozen Four in 30 years. The BU-PC event was a southern New England showdown that brought more than 18,000 hockey fans to Boston's TD Garden. Playing so close to home, PC had plenty of support from the stands. They also had a little bit of good luck, but it was more than luck that put Providence College over the top.

Those kids played their hearts out, and forward Brandon Tanev's go-ahead score in the third period to seal the win was no fluke. The Friars earned that victory, and Rhode Islanders couldn't be more proud of them.

Head coach Nate Leaman said that when it gets to be that late in the season and when there is that kind of championship pressure, ''You win,'' he said, ''with guys that are gritty. . . . ''

Well, Senator REED and I are excited to join Providence College president Father Brian Shanley and the entire PC community in celebrating this historic win. Congratulations to Coach Leaman and his staff, to goalie Jon Gillies, who was named Frozen Four Most Outstanding Player, and to all the PC players who fought so hard all season to this wonderful result.

As junior forward Noel Acciari, a native of Johnston, RI, put it, ''We might be a small State, but we're hard workers.''

Well done, Friars. You are, indeed, hard workers and your hard work paid off.

I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

INSPECTORS GENERAL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the ability of Congress to be a check on the actions of the executive branch is being endangered. One of the tools that we in Congress have created to help the government identify and correct its mistakes is being obstructed. That tool is the vital work of inspectors general.

Inspectors general work in nearly 80 Federal agencies. They perform audits, conduct investigations, and issue public reports of their findings and recommendations. They combat waste, fraud, and abuse. Their work is being frustrated, and that is why I am here. To keep an eye on what is happening inside a government agency, the inspector general must be able to access the agency's records. This is exactly what the law calls for.

The Inspector General Act of 1978 directs that all inspectors general have a right to access all records, documents, and other materials. ''All'' is not the same as ''some.'' If the inspector general deems a document necessary to do his job, then the agency should turn it over immediately—immediately. But

the clear command of that law is being ignored far too often.

Agencies partially comply or refuse to turn over materials after a lengthy review and screening process by lawyers for the agency. That is a step not included in the IG law. The examples range from the Environmental Protection Agency to the FBI, and can you believe it, even to the Peace Corps.

The excuses vary, but the pattern is very clear. For example, the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General is reviewing the Department's use of the material witness statute. That statute authorizes detaining certain witnesses for testimony before a grand jury.

The inspector general was looking into allegations that the civil rights and the civil liberties of certain material witnesses may have been abused. This is just the kind of issue that Congress relies on inspectors general to investigate. If the problems are found, the inspector general helps our government identify the problem and helps Department leadership fix these problems.

Naturally, the inspector general needed to review the grand jury testimony to decide if the value of that testimony was reasonable, given the burden imposed on the witnesses. Three U.S. attorneys offices and the Department's National Security Division provided the inspector general with the grand jury information concerning material witnesses, but the FBI refused to cooperate. The FBI claimed the grand jury testimony could not be shared with the inspector general.

This FBI decision to withhold information was a brandnew practice, beginning sometime in 2010. The law was not changed in 2010 so the FBI could do it. The FBI claimed it had the right to refuse to provide the inspector general information in over a dozen other categories as well.

Remember, the law says the inspector general shall have access to all—not some—records, documents, and other materials that they deem necessary to conduct their investigations. Yet the FBI says its attorneys will review material first and then decide what it would and would not release to the inspector general.

It even gets worse. The FBI claimed it needed the approval of the Attorney General or the Deputy Attorney General to provide the information to the inspector general. This is exactly upside down. Under the law, an inspector general must be independent. Agencies cannot be trusted to investigate themselves. If an inspector general had to ask for permission from senior leadership, he would not be truly independent.

The Inspector General Act of 1978 does allow the Attorney General, not the FBI, to prohibit the inspector general from carrying out or completing an investigation but only in certain limited circumstances.

When that extraordinary step is taken, it must be done in writing to the inspector general, and the inspector general must forward that written notice to the Congress. The FBI would have us believe that instead of written notice being required to block an IG investigation, it needs written permission to comply with an investigation. This is simply not how the law is designed to work.

After this controversy took place, Congress took action. We essentially bolded and underlined the provision in the Inspector General Act that ensures access to documents. We didn't literally do that, but this year's Justice Department appropriation declares that no funds shall be used to deny the inspector general timely access to all records.

The new law also directed the inspector general to report to Congress within 5 days whenever there was a failure to comply with this requirement. Since February of this year, we have already received four of those reports that the FBI is still refusing to comply, regardless of the actions Congress took on the appropriations bill last year.

One notice said the FBI was withholding evidence in two whistleblower cases. I have written to the FBI twice about these notices and just received a reply from the FBI Wednesday. Unfortunately, the FBI ignores most of the questions I asked and simply reasserts their original position.

That tells me the FBI thinks they are above the law. It has an obligation to comply not only with the Inspector General Act but also with restrictions Congress placed on its appropriations. That means FBI employees cannot legally be spending their time withholding and reviewing documents before providing those same documents to the inspector general. We must stay vigilant and we must insist all government agencies, including the FBI, work with the inspectors general, not against them.

I applaud my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for standing up for inspectors general. I also urge them to follow through and help make sure the funding restrictions they put in place are obeyed.

As I noted earlier, the problem is not confined to the FBI or to the Department of Justice, similar attempts to limit the work of an inspector general have occurred at the EPA and the Peace Corps. Just last year, 47 inspectors general signed a letter to the Congress warning of these problems across government. We all lose when inspectors general are delayed or prevented in doing their work. In every agency where IG's work, they help agency management become aware of problems and opportunities to improve government service. We must support the work of inspectors general and remind government agencies that blocking their investigations is not acceptable.

COMPREHENSIVE JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH ACT

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of legislation offered by Senators CORNYN and FRANKEN, the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act. This critical piece of bipartisan legislation would promote alternatives to incarceration by helping identify and treat Americans suffering from mental illness. For far too long our criminal justice system has been a substitute for a mental health system. That practice is costly, wastes limited resources, and is contrary to evidence-based practices proven to make our communities safer. I thank Senators CORNYN and FRANKEN for their hard work on this important criminal justice reform bill.

Today, law enforcement is ill-equipped and not properly trained to deal with individuals suffering from severe mental disorders whose conditions can cause them to commit crimes. The mentally ill are too often treated as common criminals and are not given access to the critical treatment they need.

The Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act would save taxpayers' money and effectively use limited resources by ensuring our prisons contain violent offenders as opposed to those who suffer from mental illnesses. When more than four of five inmates with a mental illness are not treated in jail, we waste resources by incarcerating them. This bill would make the public safer and save taxpayers' money by ensuring that we continue to support vital programs, such as mental health courts, veterans' courts, and crisis intervention teams.

The bill would also improve public safety. Persons with complicated psychiatric problems that are thrown in jail can have their mental state deteriorate even further. If incarcerated without treatment, some mental illnesses can lead people to be a danger to the public once released. But with proper treatment, they can lead ordinary, law-abiding lives even absent incarceration.

The bill would help to reduce jail overcrowding caused by warehousing people for low-level crimes, which often includes the mentally ill. For example, from 2009 to 2013 in New York City, about 400 people were sent to jail on at least 18 occasions each. That amounts to more than 10,000 jail admissions and 300,000 days in jail. In Chicago, from 2007 to 2011, 21 percent of the people sent to jails accounted for 50 percent of jail admissions. Because a significant number of people in jail are mentally ill, reducing recidivism for this population is critical. By supporting state and local efforts to identify and direct them to the appropriate mental health services, this bill would reduce recidivism and, in turn, help reduce jail over-crowding.

The bill would also encourage the development of curricula on mental health conditions for police academies

and orientations. Finally, the legislation would include new grant accountability measures and emphasize the implantation of evidence-based practices.

It is time we address mental illness in our country through treatment, not incarceration. Passing this commonsense bill would reduce recidivism, save taxpayer money, and make our communities safer. That is why I support this bill and I urge its speedy passage.

REMEMBERING ROBERT GRIFFIN

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a towering figure from Michigan's political past: former Senator Robert Griffin, who died Friday at the age of 91.

Senator Griffin was born in Detroit and was educated in the Wayne County Public Schools. By the time he graduated high school, the United States was embroiled in World War II. And in 1943—a year when so many American families came to fully comprehend the horrors of modern warfare—young Bob Griffin enlisted in the U.S. Army, joining the 71st Infantry Division.

For 3 years, Bob Griffin served our country in a time of war unmatched in its intensity, including 14 months fighting Nazis in Europe. After returning from war, like so many of our surviving soldiers, he turned his attention to his education, attending Central Michigan University, then getting his law degree at the University of Michigan.

Bob Griffin decided to begin his legal career in Traverse City.

After practicing law for several years, Bob Griffin felt compelled to practice public service, so in 1956 he ran and won office to the U.S. House of Representatives. He distinguished himself in Congress over the next decade, and following the death of Michigan Senator Patrick McNamara, then-Governor George Romney appointed Bob Griffin to finish the 7 months remaining in McNamara's term.

It did not take Senator Griffin long to earn the support of Michigan voters: They elected him to a full 6-year term that fall of 1966. Senator Griffin served the people of Michigan loyally for the next 12 years.

He authored major pieces of legislation during his career in this Chamber, and he was a member of the Republican leadership from 1969 to 1977. But he is being remembered most for the role he played in helping our Nation overcome the shock of the Watergate scandal.

In August 1974, as that scandal worsened, it became clear that President Nixon was in danger of being impeached. The impeachment process would be an embarrassing spectacle, not just for President Nixon, but for the institution of the President and for our Nation's political system.

Senator Griffin was a close friend of President Nixon, but it was the Senator's devotion to the country that led him to write a letter strongly suggesting that the President resign and spare the Nation from having to endure impeachment. That letter is said to have played a major role in Nixon's decision to finally step aside.

At a time when our Nation's political system was teetering, it was Senator Griffin who helped it to recover its balance by doing what was best for the country.

That is the mark of true leadership. Even those who disagreed with Senator Griffin's policies never found fault with his integrity or his character.

Although Senator Griffin left office in 1979, he still had a desire to serve the people of Michigan, and for 8 years he applied his wisdom and judgment on Michigan's Supreme Court, retiring in 1994. Today the Grand Traverse County courthouse bears his name.

Senator Griffin's devotion to our State was rivaled only by the devotion he had for his wife, Marjorie, with whom he spent nearly 68 years, and their four children: Paul, Richard, James, and Jill. The couple has 13 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Senator Griffin's loss will be felt not only by his loving family, but in his home of Traverse City and in every corner of the State he served during his career. Senator Griffin will be remembered for his leadership, his fierce integrity, and his unwavering allegiance to the State of Michigan and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL G. VICKERS

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the tremendous contributions of Dr. Michael G. Vickers, the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence. Secretary Vickers is retiring this month from the Federal Government having served with distinction in two critical leadership positions in the Department of Defense: Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict and Interdependent Capabilities, ASD SO/LIC&IC, from 2007 to 2011, and Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, USD(I), since 2011. His dedicated service has spanned the administrations of both President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama. Moreover, he has helped shape national security for three decades.

Secretary Vickers is the Department's longest serving USD(I). During his tenure he has led a comprehensive, mission-focused transformation of defense intelligence, and has provided policy and operational oversight for numerous sensitive intelligence and counterterrorism operations. He played a critical policy and planning role in the operation that brought justice to Osama bin Ladin. Of note, we are only days away from the fourth anniversary of that successful operation, which occurred on May 2, 2011.

As ASD SO/LIC&IC, Secretary Vickers served as the ''Service'' Secretary for all Special Operations Forces, and as the senior civilian advisor to the Secretary of Defense on all counterterrorism, irregular warfare, and special activities. He played a central role in shaping U.S. strategy for the war with Al Qaeda and the war in Afghanistan, and conceived of and led the largest expansion of SOF capabilities and capacity in history.

From 1973 to 1986, Secretary Vickers served as an Army Special Forces noncommissioned officer, Special Forces officer, and Central Intelligence Agency operations officer. He had operational and combat experience in Central America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Central and South Asia. His operational experience spans covert action and espionage, unconventional warfare, counterterrorism, counterinsurgency, and foreign internal defense. During the mid-1980s, Secretary Vickers was the principal strategist for the largest covert action program in the CIA's history: the paramilitary operation that drove the Soviet Army out of Afghanistan.

Because of Dr. Vickers' selfless service, hard work and tireless dedication, our Nation is a safer place. I want to thank him for his service and wish him and his family all the best as he begins his next adventure.

REMEMBERING BETH THOMASSON

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the life and achievements of Beth Thomasson following her passing last month. Beth was a dear friend and a tireless advocate of housing and homeownership in her position as executive officer at the Home Builders Association of West Virginia. Beth's commitment to her work, her community, and her family embodied the values that we as West Virginian's hold dear.

A graduate of Texas A&M, Beth was a ''Kelly Girl'' when she started at the Home Builders Association in 1978. In just ten years, Beth became executive officer and during this time the organization experienced a period of exceptional growth. A prodigious advocate for her cause, Beth also advanced initiatives of the Home Builder's Association at the statehouse on issues relating to business development, homeownership, and consumer education. Her strong work ethic was recognized numerous times when she received the HBA Eastern Panhandle's Appreciation Award, the HBAWV Meritorious Service Award, and the HBAWV Presidential Award.

In addition to her role at the Homebuilders Association, Beth also served in various capacities at the West Virginia Business & Industry Council, the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce, the West Virginia Housing Policy Framework, and the West Virginia Housing Trust. Above all, Beth was a devoted wife and mother of 4 daughters, as well as a grandmother of 10.

Beth was relentless in her dedication to serving her community and her

State. Those who were lucky enough to have called her their friend can attest to this fact. Her ethos is best described in her favorite saying:

> You can be a part of the problem or a part of the solution. By doing nothing, you are choosing to be a part of the problem.

I am proud to honor my friend Beth, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating her memory.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING MICHAEL JOHNSON

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Officer Michael Johnson, a 14-year veteran of the San Jose Police Department who was tragically killed in the line of duty while responding to a call for help on March 24, 2015.

Michael Johnson was born in Herlong, CA, where his father served as a military police officer before becoming a deputy for the Calaveras County Sheriff's Department. After moving to San Jose as a teenager, Officer Johnson graduated from Gunderson High School in 1995 and joined the San Jose Police Department in 2001, continuing his family's commitment to law enforcement.

Those who knew Officer Johnson fondly remember him as a caring and trustworthy colleague who was passionate about his work and loved the community he served. An experienced patrol officer, he was recently promoted to serve as a field training officer and advise new members of the police force. Outside of work, Officer Johnson found joy in hobbies ranging from jujitsu and baking to scuba diving and world travel. He was also an outstanding marksman, winning several awards from the Police and Fire Games.

Above all else, Office Johnson is remembered as a loving husband and devoted family man. In 2013, he married the love of his life, Nicole, and they planned to celebrate their marriage this summer with a large formal ceremony in Santa Cruz before starting a family. My heart goes out to Nicole and Officer Johnson's parents Daniel Johnson and Katherine Decker, his step-parents Dann Decker and Penny Johnson, his sister Jamie Radack, his brother-in-law Steve, and his niece Ami and nephew Eli.

Officer Johnson's dedicated and courageous service will not be forgotten. On behalf of the people of California and San Jose, whom he served so bravely, I extend my gratitude and deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and colleagues.•

CONGRATULATING GALENA HIGH SCHOOL

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate Galena High School on its team of students selected as a national winner in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow contest. The high school competition was judged based upon how well teams applied science, technology, engineering, and math, STEM, in helping the local community. Seventeen students competed on the core team; however, 85 students from Galena High School contributed to 21 projects that continue to develop as a result of the contest. The team competed with 3,100 other applicants, winning a total of $138,000 for its achievement in being selected as a national winner. This money will be used to purchase new technology for the high school, a contribution that will help future students for years to come.

Galena High School students chose to address difficulties faced by fellow peers with disabilities. Specifically, they worked alongside two students with disabilities to bring firsthand experience and realistic application to the project. The students utilized their STEM knowledge to create innovative equipment capable of adapting to difficult scenarios relating to those with disabilities and motor skill restrictions. The students spent hours researching current technology and worked tirelessly, brainstorming and creating solutions to different scenarios and ultimately chose two successful projects. The first, a tool to help special-needs students with typing, and the second, a portable table space making it easier for students with disabilities to carry lunch. These are only 2 of 21 projects that continue to develop and will be distributed to the local community. The students are shining examples of how compassion and hard work can make a difference in the lives of others and stand as role models for future Galena Grizzlies.

I am excited to see local students bringing recognition to both Nevada and to Galena High School for their advancement in a national competition. These students should be proud to call themselves top contenders in a competitive environment. I ask my colleagues to join me and all Nevadans in congratulating Galena High School for its success and honorable representation of Nevada.•

TRIBUTE TO WILLIE CARL MARTIN

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Coach Willie Carl Martin of the University of Alabama. After 42 years of coaching football in the Alabama public school system and at the University of Alabama, Coach Willie Carl Martin is retiring. During his high school playing days, he was such an outstanding athlete that the late Coach Paul ''Bear'' Bryant offered him a full scholarship to Alabama. He was the first African-American to be offered an athletic scholarship to the university. He declined the offer and went to college at Northeastern State University, where he was a second team All-American. He then played professional football in Canada for 6 years. He returned to his hometown, Alexander City, AL; where he began his coaching career as an assistant coach, and then as head football coach at Benjamin Russell High School. In 2001, he led Benjamin Russell High School to their first and only State Championship. After 25 years of a truly outstanding and impressive career in high school coaching, Coach Martin was hired as an assistant coach and for player development by Alabama's new coach, Nick Saban, in 2007. During his 8 years at Alabama, he had an instrumental part in Alabama winning three SEC championships and three national championships.

Willie Carl has demonstrated exceptional academic and professional careers both in teaching and coaching young students. He is a loyal, dedicated individual who has always had time for his students and players. He is generous with his time with others, regardless of their station in life. He is fortunate enough to have a wife, Leslie, as well as two lovely daughters and grandchildren, who have stood by him in all of his endeavors. I know they, along with his other numerous friends and family, will join me in proclaiming May 12, 2015, as Willie Carl Martin Day in Alexander City, AL.•

RECOGNIZING HUNTSVILLE UTILITIES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Huntsville Utilities, a public utility located in Huntsville, AL. Huntsville Utilities is owned by the city of Huntsville and provides water, gas, and electricity to Madison County and parts of Marshall County.

Huntsville Utilities serves a total of 49,786 gas customers, 90,665 water customers, and 174,959 electric customers. In total, Huntsville Utilities meets the utility needs of more than 300,000 customers in North Alabama. Moreover, Huntsville Utilities has more than 600 employees throughout the service area.

Water, gas, and electricity are of vital importance to families and businesses in our communities. I am honored to commemorate Huntsville Utilities for 75 years of providing this important service to the Huntsville area.•

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 which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:11 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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 622. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction of State and local general sales taxes.

H.R. 1105. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Chairman.

The message further announced that pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, the Clerk of the House reappoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Dr. Sharon Leon of Fairfax, VA.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 984. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices.

H.R. 636. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 644. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory.

H.R. 1295. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the process for making determinations with respect to whether organizations are exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of such Code.

H.R. 1314. 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.

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–1285. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report to Congress on the National Agriculture and Food Defense Strategy (NAFDS)''; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1286. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Judith A. Fedder, United States Air Force, and her advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1287. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of General Janet C. Wolfenbarger, United States Air Force, and her advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1288. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), Department of Defense, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1289. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Chief Management Officer, Department of Defense, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1290. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1291. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Syrian Sanctions Regulations'' (31 CFR Part 542) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1292. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1293. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Inc. Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2015–0365)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1294. 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 Cod by Trawl Catcher Vessels in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XD823) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1295. 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 Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer'' (RIN0648–XD799) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1296. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Transportation Conformity and Conformity of General Federal Actions'' (FRL No. 9925–86–Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1297. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Truckee Meadows project on the Truckee River in Washoe County, Nevada, for the purposes of flood risk management and recreation; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1298. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Expatriate Health Plans Under the ACA Section 9010'' (Notice 2015–29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1299. A communication from the Deputy Director, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendments to Excepted Benefits'' ((RIN0938–AS52) (CMS–9946-F2)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1300. A communication from the Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's fiscal year 2014 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1301. A communication from the General Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Office of Management and Budget, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1302. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the report on activities of the National Guard Counterdrug Schools; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1303. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the Department's activities during calendar year 2014 relative to the Equal Credit Opportunity Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1304. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of proposed legislation entitled ''Criminal Judicial Procedure, Administration, and Technical Amendments Act of 2015''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1305. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's activities under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act during fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–11. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada urging the United States Congress to facilitate the payment of contractors who completed hazardous fuels treatment projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin pursuant to contracts with the Nevada Fire Safe Council; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Whereas, In 1999, Northern Nevada experienced one of the worst wildfire years on record, with more than 1.6 million acres burned and significant economic and environmental impacts; and

Whereas, In the spring of 1999, a resolution was approved at Nevada's first comprehensive fire conference, known as the ''Living With Fire Forum,'' which urged the establishment of a statewide council to provide support to make homes, neighborhoods and communities in Nevada safe from fire; and

Whereas, The Nevada Fire Safe Council was formed as a domestic nonprofit corporation on December 10, 1999, and received appropriations from the Nevada Legislature in 2005 and 2007 to administer a community-based wildfire threat reduction program; and

Whereas, By March 2007, the Council had grown to include 60 affiliated chapters and 3,515 members; and

Whereas, The Angora Fire in the summer of 2007 burned more than 250 structures on private property and more than 3,000 acres in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and further amplified the existing need for mitigation work to reduce the threat of wildfire in communities; and

Whereas, Between 2008 and 2012, the Council was awarded over $21 million in federal reimbursement grants to be used to pay public and private entities for the completion of hazardous fuels treatment projects; and

Whereas, In July 2011, the Office of Inspector General of the United States Department of Agriculture initiated an audit of the Council's records after receiving a complaint on its hotline alleging that the Council was awarding certain contracts in a noncompetitive manner; and

Whereas, The audit report issued by the Inspector General in January 2012 indicated various accounting irregularities in the Council's administration of the federal reimbursement grant money and resulted in the freezing of reimbursement payments of that grant money for completed projects until the accounting deficiencies were corrected; and

Whereas, In November 2012, the Council filed for bankruptcy and ceased operations; and

Whereas, As a result of the freezing of reimbursement payments and the Council's bankruptcy, various public and private entities that had completed hazardous fuels treatment projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin pursuant to agreements with the Council have not been paid for their services, which has caused significant economic hardship to those entities; and

Whereas, On March 20, 2014, California Assemblyman Brian Dahle and his staff were joined by staff from the offices of United States Representatives Doug LaMalfa and Tom McClintock to share their concerns about the outstanding debts of the Council and to explore solutions with Nevada's Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water System: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of Nevada, Jointly, That the members of the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge Congress to facilitate the payment of contractors who completed hazardous fuels treatment projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin pursuant to contracts with the Nevada Fire Safe Council and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Attorney General of the United States, the Chief of the United States Forest Service, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

POM–12. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to provide full long-term funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program and to reauthorize Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act funding; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1010

Whereas, the State of Arizona is composed of 113,417 square miles of land, of which 17% is managed by the Bureau of Land Management 15% is managed by the United States Forest Service, 2% is managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, 4% is managed by the National Park Service, 4% is military land and 28% is tribal land. Thus, much of the land in Arizona is unavailable for economic development and is not part of the property tax base; and

Whereas, counties are required to provide law enforcement, search and rescue, emergency services, road building and maintenance, and other community services on, or associated with, tax-exempt federally managed public lands; and

Whereas, the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program was established in 1976 to offset costs incurred by counties for services provided to the federal government and to the users of federally managed lands located within a county; and

Whereas, the national average PILT payment in fiscal year 2014 was $0.72 per acre, which is far below the amount that federally managed lands would return through both value-based taxation and economic development; and

Whereas, Congress has been unable to pass a long-term funding solution for the PILT program since 2008 and has instead passed last-minute one-year extensions, causing great uncertainty about county finances and services as well as rural school funding; and

Whereas, funding for fiscal year 2015 PILT was included in the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act and the Carl Levin and Howard P. ''Buck'' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act, totaling $442 million, but the fate of fiscal year 2016 and future years is still unknown; and

Whereas, a lack of certainty for PILT funding places the large, unsustainable burden of providing services on federally managed lands squarely on the backs of local county taxpayers, while the presence of that federally managed land creates barriers to economic opportunities; and

Whereas, rural communities and schools in and around national forests have historically relied on a share of receipts from timber harvests to support education services and roads; and

Whereas, in the 1980s, federal restrictions substantially diminished the revenue-generating timber harvests permitted in these forests; and

Whereas, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) was passed in 2000 to stabilize and transition payments to counties and schools away from the declining and unreliable share of timber sales; and

Whereas, the failure of Congress to honor the more than 100-year-old contract between the federal government and heavily forested communities by not reauthorizing SRS funding for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 will create budgetary shortfalls for rural counties and school districts; and

Whereas, failure to immediately secure SRS funding for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 and PILT funding for fiscal year 2016 and into the future for Arizona counties will critically impact the local budget process and structural solvency of counties and the public school systems and will substantially compromise their ability to provide essential services, such as health, safety and welfare; and

Whereas, the federal government has the duty to reimburse local jurisdictions for the presence of federally managed public lands in a reliable and consistent manner.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress provide full long-term funding for the PILT program to help create financial stability within Arizona's counties.

2. That the United States Congress immediately reauthorize SRS funding for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 and work toward a long-term solution.

3. That the United States Congress work with the State of Arizona and county governments to identify and implement policies to promote economic development on, or associated with, federally managed lands.

4. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–13. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to enact legislation exempting United States military bases from the regulations and restrictions of the Endangered Species Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1009

Whereas, the mission of the United States Department of Defense is ''to provide the military forces needed to deter war and to protect the security of our country''; and

Whereas, according to the Department of Defense and the Government Accountability Office (GAO), a fundamental principle of military readiness is that the military must train as it intends to fight; and

Whereas, the Department of Defense has established military training facilities in Arizona, including Fort Huachuca, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Luke Air Force Base and the Barry M. Goldwater range, among others, to accomplish this goal; and

Whereas, Department of Defense officials indicate that heightened focus on the application of environmental statutes has affected the use of its training areas; and

Whereas, compliance with environmental regulations, especially the Endangered Species Act (ESA), has caused some training activities to be canceled, postponed or modified; and

Whereas, compliance with environmental regulations, particularly the ESA, has forced military officials to make adjustments to training regimens, including requiring units

in training to avoid areas with ESA restrictions; and

Whereas, since 2003, the Department of Defense has obtained exemptions from three environmental laws and sought exemptions from three others; and

Whereas, these exemptions allow the military to maintain its high state of readiness and help to ensure its ability to meet unexpected threats; and

Whereas, these exemptions are under increased scrutiny by environmental groups and federal officials who would rather protect wildlife than allow the military to maintain its readiness; and

Whereas, a GAO report found no instances in which the Department of Defense's use of exemptions from the ESA or the Migratory Bird Treaty Act has adversely affected the environment; and

Whereas, the United States military has proven itself to be a responsible and effective steward of the land and environment.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress enact legislation exempting United States military bases and training facilities from the regulations and restrictions of the Endangered Species Act.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–14. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to enact the 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1012

Whereas, when the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was originally enacted in 1973, the framers and supporters of the ESA envisioned a law that would protect species believed to be on the brink of extinction; and

Whereas, at that time, 109 species were listed for protection; and

Whereas, today, over 1,500 species in the United States are designated as threatened or endangered under the ESA; and

Whereas, as a result of a 2011 mega-settlement between the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and environmental litigants, hundreds more species could be added within the next two years; and

Whereas, the ESA is failing to achieve its primary purpose of species recovery as it has only a 2% recovery rate; and

Whereas, the ESA was last amended in 1988, which means 27 years have passed since any improvements have been made; and

Whereas, the 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act would require that data used by federal agencies for ESA listing decisions be made publicly available and accessible through the Internet, while respecting state data privacy laws and private property; and

Whereas, the 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act would require the federal government to disclose to affected states data used prior to an ESA listing decision and require the ''best available scientific and commercial data'' used by the federal government to incorporate data provided by states, tribes and local county governments; and

Whereas, the 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act would require the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to track, report to Congress and make available online the federal taxpayer funds used to respond to ESA lawsuits, the number of employees dedicated to ESA litigation and the amount of attorney fees awarded in the course of ESA litigation and settlement agreements; and

Whereas, the 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act would prioritize species protection and protect taxpayer dollars by placing reasonable caps on attorney fees to make the ESA consistent with existing federal law; and

Whereas, the customs, cultures and economic well-being of our local communities, as well as important historic and cultural aspects of our local heritage, are being ignored, which adversely affects the lives and jobs of the people of the United States and devastates local and state economies; and

Whereas, a cost-benefit analysis should be required on any ESA action; and

Whereas, the United States Chamber of Commerce, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and many others support the 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representative concurring, prays:

1. That the Congress of the United States enact the 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–15. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to oppose the implementation of certain technology and emissions reduction rules for new and existing electric generating units; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1013

Whereas, the Clean Air Act (CAA) is a federal law designed to protect air quality nationwide; and

Whereas, jurisdiction to implement the CAA lies primarily with the states; and

Whereas, in 1970, Congress enacted the CAA, mandating comprehensive state and federal regulations for both stationary and nonstationary sources of pollution; and

Whereas, while Americans support efforts to improve air quality, such efforts should be carefully balanced to ensure that the costs of new regulations to the economy do not exceed potential benefits; and

Whereas, on June 2, 2014, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed rules in the Federal Register that will require Arizona to reduce carbon emissions at existing generating facilities by 51.7% by 2030; and

Whereas, the carbon reduction targets for Arizona are the second highest in the nation; and

Whereas, the interim goal proposed for Arizona would require nearly 90% of the final goal to be achieved by the year 2020: and

Whereas, concentrations of greenhouse gases are the result of global emissions and do not pose an immediate risk to public health and safety as do other criteria pollutants; and

Whereas, the EPA's proposed rules exceed its legal authority to require reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel-fired electric generating units under Section 111(d) of the CAA and interfere with the electric system of Arizona; and

Whereas, addressing greenhouse gas emissions under Section 111(d) is a discretionary duty of the EPA as outlined in the CAA; and

Whereas, devoting resources to discretionary duties such as regulating greenhouse gas emissions takes away resources from nondiscretionary duties that are better suited to protect the public health in the near term; and

Whereas, it is important to Arizona's economy to have a diverse energy portfolio that provides reliable and affordable electric service to Arizona residents and businesses while protecting the public health and welfare; and

Whereas, fossil fuels, including coal and natural gas, provide an abundant, domestic and affordable energy source that is important to Arizona's economy and the availability and reliability of electric service; and

Whereas, the EPA ignores the customs, cultures and economic well-being of our local communities as well as important historic and cultural aspects of our local heritage; and

Whereas, the EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan will cause significant disruptions in Arizona's electricity supply and transmission system, causing reliability in the system to decrease.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress oppose the implementation of rules for existing electric generating units that exceed the EPA's legal authority under Section 111 of the CAA and interfere with the prerogative of Arizona to regulate electricity and ensure an affordable and reliable supply of electricity for its citizens.

2. That the United States Congress oppose the implementation of rules for new or existing electric generating units that do not recognize the primary role of states in establishing and implementing plans to achieve emissions reductions for existing units under Section 111 of the CAA.

3. That the United States Congress exercise oversight over the EPA to ensure that the primary role of States in establishing and implementing rules under Section 111 of the CAA is respected.

4. That the Governor and the Attorney General of the State of Arizona take appropriate actions to uphold this state's responsibilities with respect to the CAA and defend the state against overreaching regulations.

5. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Governor of the State of Arizona and the Attorney General of the State of Arizona.

POM–16. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to act to increase the United States Customs field office personnel at the ports of entry in Nogales, Douglas, and San Luis, Arizona; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2003

Whereas, the United States and Mexico are important trading partners, and commerce between the two countries is a critical source of jobs, income and exchange; and

Whereas, according to the United States Department of Commerce, more than $500 billion in bilateral trade and over $100 billion occurs in cross-border investment annually: and

Whereas, in Arizona, $28 billion in two-way trade is processed annually through Arizona's ports of entry; and

Whereas, according to the United States Census Bureau, Arizona exports to Mexico totaled $7.1 billion in 2013; and

Whereas, the prime conduits for cross-border trade are through the ports of entry in Nogales, Douglas and San Luis, Arizona; and

Whereas, the Customs Field Office personnel within the United States Custom and Border Protection service of the United States Department of Homeland Security serve a vital function in promoting security and economic stability; and

Whereas, the lack of capacity and staffing for customs inspections at these primary entry points create congestion for incoming and outgoing goods, hampers commercial activity and potentially compromises border security; and

Whereas, these impediments ultimately translate into perished agricultural produce and lost business opportunities and income; and

Whereas, the rapid delivery of goods and commerce enhances business activity and strengthens economic integration; and

Whereas, greater inspection capacity at the United States border at the ports of entry in Nogales, Douglas and San Luis, Arizona will enhance the safety and swiftness of goods moving across the border, benefiting the economies of both nations; and

Whereas, increasing the number of Customs Field Office personnel at these ports will facilitate commercial traffic and will result in increased economic growth and stability for Arizona; and

Whereas, the letter signed by every member of the Arizona Congressional delegation and sent to the United States Department of Homeland Security dated October 14, 2014 expressed the need for greater staffing and allocation of personnel to Arizona's ports of entry.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress act expediently to increase and maintain staffing for Customs Field Office personnel at the ports of entry in Nogales. Douglas and San Luis, Arizona in order to prudently speed the flow of goods and commerce.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Special Report entitled ''Activities of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs During the 113th Congress'' (Rept. No. 114–33).

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. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1007. A bill to amend the Dayton Aviation Heritage Preservation Act of 1992 to rename a site of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RISCH:

S. 1008. A bill to require certain agencies to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 1009. A bill to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Generalized System of Preferences, the preferential duty treatment program for Haiti, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 1010. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to exempt from registration brokers performing services in connection with the transfer of ownership of smaller privately held companies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 1011. A bill to establish a State Trade and Export Promotion Grant Program; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARPER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. NELSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KING, Mr. TESTER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. REED, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. UDALL, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 1012. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to strengthen the earned income tax credit and make permanent certain tax provisions under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1013. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1014. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of cosmetics; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 1015. A bill to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 1016. A bill to preserve freedom and choice in health care; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. Res. 140. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. Res. 141. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day.

By Mr. MANCHIN:

S. Con. Res. 13. A concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 149

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 149, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 177

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 177, a bill to protect consumers by requiring reasonable security policies and procedures to protect data containing personal information, and to provide for nationwide notice in the event of a breach of security.

S. 198

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 198, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to inverted corporations.

S. 271

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 271, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 330

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 330, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 388

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 388, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to require humane treatment of animals by Federal Government facilities.

S. 423

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 423, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 565

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 565, a bill to reduce the operation and maintenance costs associated with the Federal fleet by encouraging the use of remanufactured parts, and for other purposes.

S. 571

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 571, a bill to amend the Pilot's Bill of Rights to facilitate appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 590

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 590, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act to combat campus sexual violence, and for other purposes.

S. 609

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 609, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and increase the exclusion for benefits provided to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders.

S. 615

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 615, a bill to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

S. 676

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 676, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent tax-related identity theft and tax fraud, and for other purposes.

S. 682

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 682, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage.

S. 713

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 713, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 774

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 774, a bill to amend the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 798

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 798, a bill to provide for notice to, and input by, State insurance commissioners when requiring an insurance company to serve as a source of financial strength or when the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation places a lien against an insurance company's assets, and for other purposes.

S. 804

At the request of Mr. VITTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 804, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

S. 812

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 812, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 824

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 824, a bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 841

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 841, a bill to expand eligibility for health care under the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to include certain veterans seeking mental health care, and for other purposes.

S. 849

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 849, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for systematic data collection and analysis and epidemiological research regarding Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's disease, and other neurological diseases.

S. 857

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 857, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of an initial comprehensive care plan for Medicare beneficiaries newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes.

S. 860

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 860, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 890

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 890, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the Land and Water Conservation Fund to maximize the effectiveness of the Fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 898

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 898, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 901

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces that are related to that exposure, to establish an advisory board on such health conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 928

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 928, a bill to reauthorize the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11th Victim

Compensation Fund of 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 946

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 946, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate transportation in a motor vehicle containing 2 or more levels stacked on top of one another.

S. 962

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 962, a bill to extend the same Federal benefits to law enforcement officers serving private institutions of higher education and rail carriers that apply to law enforcement officers serving units of State and local government.

S. 974

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 974, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit employment of children in tobacco-related agriculture by deeming such employment as oppressive child labor.

S. 998

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 998, a bill to establish a process for the consideration of temporary duty suspensions and reductions, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 1014. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of cosmetics; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, the use of personal care products is virtually universal in this country. These products include everything from shampoo and hair dye to deodorant and lotion.

Troubling examples of negative health effects call into question the safety of some of the chemicals used in these products.

For example, methylene glycol, which turns into formaldehyde when heated, is a chemical in the popular hair smoothing treatment known as the ''Brazilian Blowout''. Short term exposure has been reported to cause hair loss, rashes, blistered scalps, nosebleeds, bleeding gums, shortness of breath and vomiting. Over the long term, exposure is associated with an increased risk of cancer.

Some ingredients in cosmetics may only be safe for use in certain concentrations. Propyl paraben, a widely used preservative, is found in many products and mimics the hormone estrogen. This has the potential to disrupt the endocrine system, which can lead to a variety of health concerns such as reproductive system disorders.

In light of this and other examples, consumers deserve to know that the products they use every day are safe. To do this, Federal oversight of the personal care products industry needs to be strengthened.

Europe has a robust system of oversight for personal care products, including consumer protections like product registration and ingredient reviews, but in the United States, the industry is regulated largely on a voluntary basis, with a sparse patchwork of state regulations. The Food and Drug Administration, FDA, has little authority, operating under a Federal law from the 1930s that has seen little change since. Consumers rightly expect that basic protective measures to ensure the safety of personal care product ingredients are in place, but the reality is that FDA doesn't even have mandatory recall authority for products that pose significant harm to human health.

I have been working with consumer groups, companies and FDA to put together a bipartisan, middle of the road bill to update the regulatory structure for personal care products, provide a streamlined national system of oversight and accountability, and review the safety of specific chemicals in these products. I am grateful to my colleague, Senator COLLINS, for working with me in this effort.

Today we are introducing the Personal Care Products Safety Act, a comprehensive step forward. The bill, which is the result of feedback we received from a wide range of stakeholders, addresses consumer safety concerns and provides a modernized, predictable and straightforward system of compliance for companies.

The Personal Care Products Safety Act will, for the first time, enable the public to know which companies, whether they are American or foreign, are producing and distributing personal care products through a registration system operated by FDA. Companies will provide information about the ingredients in their products and attest to their safety. This updated system will be supported by user fees paid by the industry.

Under this legislation, FDA will review at least five chemical ingredients per year for their safety and appropriate use in personal care products. In determining which ingredients to evaluate and their safety, many factors must be considered, including how prevalent the ingredient is, the likely exposure, adverse event reports, and scientific studies from a wide range of sources.

The first set of chemicals for review includes: diazolidinyl urea, which is used as a preservative in a wide range of products including deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, bubble bath and lotion; lead acetate, which is used as a color additive in hair dyes; methylene glycol/formaldehyde, which is used in hair treatments; propyl paraben, which is used as a preservative in a wide range of products including shampoo, conditioner and lotion; quaternium-15, which is used as a preservative in a wide range of products including shampoo, shaving cream, skin creams and cleansers.

FDA may deem an ingredient safe, unsafe, or safe under certain uses or conditions. FDA will also be empowered to require warning labels on products with certain ingredients, as appropriate, and limit the amount of an ingredient that may be used in certain products. For example, some ingredients may only be safe when used by professionals in a salon or spa setting.

The structure of the legislation encourages, and relies on, public input. There are many opportunities built in for consumer groups, companies, medical professionals, scientists and the public to weigh in with feedback on the ingredients that should be prioritized for review and scientific information that FDA should consider regarding the safety of those ingredients. FDA is required to provide a yearly update to Congress and the public on its progress in reviewing these ingredients and the new oversight system.

Many companies follow strict voluntary standards for manufacturing under proper conditions, but the current lack of a Federal standard leaves this to chance. Under this legislation, FDA sets Good Manufacturing Practice guidelines to ensure companies meet a minimum standard. Companies will also need to report adverse health events related to their products to FDA.

As more consumers choose to shop online, it is of growing importance that they have access to the same product information they would see in a store. This bill requires all personal care products sold online to include information that is on the label. Consumers will be able to see all ingredients listed, along with any product warnings and other important information on use.

We also take steps to reduce animal testing in personal care products, and direct FDA to encourage the use of alternatives and provide specific guidance to companies on non-animal testing methods that are seen as acceptable.

This legislation is the product of many different groups working together. I am pleased to have the support of the Personal Care Products Council, which represents over 600 companies, Environmental Working Group, Society for Women's Health Research, HealthyWomen, and National Alliance for Hispanic Health. These individual companies have also stepped forward to independently support the bill: Johnson & Johnson, brands include Neutrogena, Aveeno, Clean & Clear, Lubriderm, Johnson's baby products; Procter & Gamble, brands include

Pantene, Head & Shoulders, Clairol, Herbal Essences, Secret, Dolce & Gabbana, Gucci, Ivory, CoverGirl, Olay, Sebastian Professional, Vidal Sassoon; Revlon, brands include Revlon, Almay, Mitchum; Estée Lauder, brands include Estée Lauder, Clinique, Origins, Tommy Hilfiger, MAC, La Mer, Bobbi Brown, Donna Karan, Aveda, Michael Kors; Unilever, brands include Dove, Tresemme, Lever, St. Ives, Noxzema, Nexxus, Pond's, Suave, Sunsilk, Vaseline, Degree; L'Oréal, brands include L'Oréal Paris, Lancome, Giorgio Armani, Yves Saint Laurent, Kiehl's, Essie, Garnier, Maybelline-New York, Vichy, La Roche-Posay, The Body Shop, Redken.

I urge my colleagues to join Senator COLLINS and me in supporting this effort to modernize our outdated regulatory system for personal care products, and to cosponsor the bill.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 140—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 140

Whereas the Armenian Genocide was conceived and carried out by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, resulting in the deportation of nearly 2,000,000 Armenians, of whom 1,500,000 men, women, and children were killed and 500,000 survivors were expelled from their homes, and the elimination of the over 2,500-year presence of Armenians in their historic homeland;

Whereas, on May 24, 1915, the Allied Powers of England, France, and Russia jointly issued a statement explicitly charging for the first time ever another government of committing crimes ''against humanity and civilization'';

Whereas Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term ''genocide'', and whose draft resolution for a genocide convention treaty became the framework for the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, recognized the Armenian Genocide as the type of crime the United Nations should prevent and punish through the setting of international standards;

Whereas Senate Concurrent Resolution 12, 64th Congress, agreed to February 9, 1916, resolved that ''the President of the United States be respectfully asked to designate a day on which the citizens of this country may give expression to their sympathy by contributing funds now being raised for the relief of the Armenians'', who at the time were enduring ''starvation, disease, and untold suffering'';

Whereas Senate Resolution 359, 66th Congress, agreed to May 11, 1920, stated that ''the testimony adduced at the hearings conducted by the subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations have clearly established the truth of the reported massacres and other atrocities from which the Armenian people have suffered'';

Whereas House Joint Resolution 148, 94th Congress, agreed to April 8, 1975, resolved, ''That April 24, 1975, is hereby designated as 'National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man', and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day as a day of remembrance for all the victims of genocide, especially those of Armenian ancestry. . .'';

Whereas House Joint Resolution 247, 98th Congress, agreed to September 10, 1984, resolved, ''That April 24, 1985, is hereby designated as 'National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man', and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day as a day of remembrance for all the victims of genocide, especially the one and one-half million people of Armenian ancestry. . .'';

Whereas, on April 11, 2014, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate reported favorably Senate Resolution 410, 113th Congress, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, and calling on the President to ''ensure that the foreign policy of the Unites States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide'';

Whereas, on April 12, 2015, Pope Francis described the atrocities perpetrated by the Ottoman Turks against the Armenians as the first genocide of the 20th century;

Whereas the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, an independent Federal agency, unanimously resolved on April 30, 1981, that the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum would document the Armenian Genocide in the Museum, and has done so through a public examination of the historic record, including lectures and the maintenance of books, records, and photographs about the Genocide;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Turkey has continued its international campaign of Armenian Genocide denial, maintained a blockade of Armenia, and continues to pressure the small but growing Turkish civil society movement for acknowledging the Armenian Genocide;

Whereas, in April 2011, the month of remembrance of the Armenian Genocide, the Government of the Republic of Turkey demolished a 100-foot-high statue in the city of Kars which was erected to promote reconciliation with Armenia;

Whereas the denial of the Armenian Genocide by the Government of the Republic of Turkey has prevented the meaningful advancement of a constructive political, economic, and security relationship between Armenia and Turkey; and

Whereas the teaching, recognition, and commemoration of acts of genocide and other crimes against humanity is essential to preventing the re-occurrence of similar atrocities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate—

(1) to remember and commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide on April 24, 2015;

(2) that the President should work toward an equitable, constructive, stable, and durable Armenian-Turkish relationship that includes the full acknowledgment by the Government of the Republic of Turkey of the facts about the Armenian Genocide; and

(3) that the President should ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide.

SENATE RESOLUTION 141—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY

Mr. BURR (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 141

Whereas the Take Our Daughters To Work program was created in New York City as a response to research that showed that, by the 8th grade, many girls were dropping out of school, had low self-esteem, and lacked confidence;

Whereas in 2003, the name of the program was changed to ''Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work'' so that boys who face many of the same challenges as girls could also be involved in the program;

Whereas in 2015, the mission of the program, to develop ''innovative strategies that empower girls and boys to overcome societal barriers to reach their full potential'', fully reflects the addition of boys;

Whereas the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Foundation, a nonprofit organization, has grown to be one of the largest public awareness campaigns, with more than 39,000,000 participants annually in more than 3,000,000 organizations and workplaces representing each State;

Whereas in 2007, the Take Our Daughters To Work program transitioned to Elizabeth City, North Carolina, became known as the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Foundation, and received national recognition for its dedication to future generations;

Whereas every year, mayors, governors, and other private and public officials sign proclamations and lend support to Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day;

Whereas the fame of the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work program has spread overseas, with requests and inquiries being made from around the world on how to operate the program;

Whereas 2015 marks the 22nd anniversary of the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work program;

Whereas Take Our Daughters And Sons to Work Day will be observed on Thursday, April 23, 2015; and

Whereas by offering opportunities for children to experience activities and events, Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day is intended to continue helping millions of girls and boys on an annual basis to examine their opportunities and strive to reach their fullest potential: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the goals of introducing our daughters and sons to the workplace; and

(2) commends all participants of Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the vital role the participants play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the United States.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 13—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE AMERICAN FIGHTER ACES

Mr. MANCHIN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 13

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR CEREMONY TO PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO AMERICAN FIGHTER ACES.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on May 20, 2015 for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces collectively, in recognition of their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom throughout the history of aviation warfare.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1121. Mr. BURR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1122. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1121. Mr. BURR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE _____—MILITARY SEX OFFENDER REPORTING

SEC. _____. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Military Sex Offender Reporting Act of 2015''.

SEC. _____. REGISTRATION OF SEX OFFENDERS RELEASED FROM MILITARY CORRECTIONS FACILITIES OR UPON CONVICTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act is amended by inserting after section 128 (42 U.S.C. 16928) the following:

''SEC. 128A. REGISTRATION OF SEX OFFENDERS RELEASED FROM MILITARY CORRECTIONS FACILITIES OR UPON CONVICTION.

''The Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Attorney General the information described in section 114 to be included in the National Sex Offender Registry and the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website regarding persons—

''(1)(A) released from military corrections facilities; or

''(B) convicted if the sentences adjudged by courts-martial under chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice), do not include confinement; and

''(2) required to register under this title.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 128 the following:

''Sec. 128A. Registration of sex offenders released from military corrections facilities or upon conviction.''.

SA 1122. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE IV—ANTI-TRAFFICKING TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY PERSONNEL

SEC. 401. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—The term ''human trafficking'' means an act or practice described in paragraph (9) or (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

SEC. 402. TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL TO IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall implement a program to—

(1) train and periodically retrain relevant Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and other Department personnel that the Secretary considers appropriate, with respect to how to effectively deter, detect, and disrupt human trafficking, and, where appropriate, interdict a suspected perpetrator of human trafficking, during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities; and

(2) ensure that the personnel referred to in paragraph (1) regularly receive current information on matters related to the detection of human trafficking, including information that becomes available outside of the Department's initial or periodic retraining schedule, to the extent relevant to their official duties and consistent with applicable information and privacy laws.

(b) TRAINING DESCRIBED.—The training referred to in subsection (a) may be conducted through in-class or virtual learning capabilities, and shall include—

(1) methods for identifying suspected victims of human trafficking and, where appropriate, perpetrators of human trafficking;

(2) for appropriate personnel, methods to approach a suspected victim of human trafficking, where appropriate, in a manner that is sensitive to the suspected victim and is not likely to alert a suspected perpetrator of human trafficking;

(3) training that is most appropriate for a particular location or environment in which the personnel receiving such training perform their official duties;

(4) other topics determined by the Secretary to be appropriate; and

(5) a post-training evaluation for personnel receiving the training.

(c) TRAINING CURRICULUM REVIEW.—The Secretary shall annually reassess the training program established under subsection (a) to ensure it is consistent with current techniques, patterns, and trends associated with human trafficking.

SEC. 403. CERTIFICATION AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall certify to Congress that all personnel referred to in section 402(a) have successfully completed the training required under that section.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall report to Congress with respect to the overall effectiveness of the program required by this title, the number of cases reported by Department personnel in which human trafficking was suspected, and, of those cases, the number of cases that were confirmed cases of human trafficking.

SEC. 404. ASSISTANCE TO NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.

The Secretary may provide training curricula to any State, local, or tribal government or private organization to assist the government or organization in establishing a program of training to identify human trafficking, upon request from the government or organization.

SEC. 405. EXPANDED USE OF DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.

Section 3014(e)(1) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101 of this Act, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) section 106 of the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 17616).''.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. VITTER. 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 April 20, 2015, at 3 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''2020 Census: Challenges Facing the Bureau for a Modern, Cost-Effective Survey.''

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

AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 34, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 34) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to 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 concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 34) was agreed to.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 141, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 141) supporting the goals and ideals of Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. 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 with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 141) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, April 21; 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 leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided, and that the majority control the first half and the Democrats control the final half; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of S. 178; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference luncheons.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:43 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 21, 2015, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

ADAM J. SZUBIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR TERRORISM AND FINANCIAL CRIMES, VICE DAVID S. COHEN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JEFFREY J. HAWKINS, JR., OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, AND 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., SECTIONS 8034 AND 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. DAVID L. GOLDFEIN

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. TIMOTHY M. RAY

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. ROBERT N. POLUMBO

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. DARRYL L. ROBERSON

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. CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR.

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 major general

BRIG. GEN. ERIC C. BUSH

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. ALAN R. LYNN

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. JILL K. FARIS

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. GARY H. CHEEK

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. CHRISTIAN A. ROFRANO

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 vice admiral

VICE ADM. NORA W. TYSON

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MARK A. BRILAKIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10 U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ROBERT S. WALSH

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

BAMIDELE A. ADETUNJI
TERESE L. ALLISON
LIAM M. APONTE
JULEE L. AVRAM
BRETT J. BALLARD
SHARON A. BALLINGER
NICHOLAS S. BANCROFT
PAMELA D. BANKS
KATHLEEN V. BELL
NATASHA I. BEST
JUDY L. BLANCHARD
BRIAN T. BOOTH
CASSIDY JO BOYER
TINA S. BRADFORD
MICHAEL J. BRAKEL
LAURIE A. BREZINA
REBECCA A. BRIONES
KELLY ANN CARTER
MARIA C. CASTRO
JENNIE L. CAVAL
MARGARET G. CENTENO
LEWIS G. CHRISTENSEN
DAWN M. CLAUSON
MARION A. COLLINS
JENNIFER L. CONAWAY
JONATHAN C. CRISS
KAREN J. DARGAN
CARMANITA L. DAVIS
MONICA I. DENNING
GUILENE C. DERISMA
RACHELLE R. DIXON
TIFFANI M. DORCH
DEAN P. DORE
DEBBIE J. DORSEY
KATHLEEN M. DRUM
APRIL J. DUNLEVY
CHRISTOPHER D. DUVALL
ABIGAIL J. EASTMAN
LORI E. FLORI
JOAQUINA FONTES LOPES
MOAYAD FOWLER, SR.
JENNIFER L. FRANKS
DENISE M. FREDERIKSEN
ERIC M. FROST
MCKISA P. FRYER
MARY E. GAMBLE
STEPHANIE P. GARCIA
ANGELA C. GOOKIN
KATHERINE R. GRIFFITHS
TWANA A. HADDEN
WENDY H. HEIBEL
KATHERINE M. HITZ
ANGELICA M. HOLLIDAY
JK SHANE HOUSE
HEATHER S. HUBBARD
LAURA A. HUMES
CHENNEL CHRISTIAN JOHNSON
BENJAMIN D. JORGENSEN
SUSAN E. JOSEPH
DIANE J. JUROSKA
KATHERINE S. KASCH
TUESDAY M. KAYONGO
SHARA R. KOCH
VALERIE P. KOSOBUCKI
TAMMY R. KRITZER
MICHELLE A. LEMPKE
JOSEPH C. LEONDIKE
MARCIE A. LEWIS
BETHANY L. LIEBERMAN
BESSA JANE E. LIVICA
LOU A. LYSENGEN
ERIC W. MAGNUSON
ANASTASIA T. MCKOY
SHERRY L. MITCHELL
CYNTHIA G. MONTESI
ROMEATRIUS NICOLE MOSS
RICHARD J. ODOSSO
JAMES C. ONEILL
LIBERTY C. ORADA
HEATHER L. ORTIZ
TINA MARIE OUELLETTE
ANNETTE R. PATTON
DOUGLAS S. POGUE
STEPHANIE M. POWERS
JESSICA L. PRICE
STEPHEN G. RAY
RICHARD P. ROGERS
ESMERALDA SALAZAR
DARRELL C. SANDERS
JEANETTE K. SANDERS

SUZANNE E. W. SEE
SHAWNICE LEE SHANKLE
ANTHONY P. SIBILIA
JOHANA SIERRANUNEZ
MICHELLE B. SMITH CLEGGETT
STEFFANIE L. SOLBERG
BRIAN L. SPURLOCK
ANTHONY R. STEPHENS
THEODORE J. SZERSZENSKI III
GRETCHEN E. SZYMANSKI
SCOTT G. THALLEMER
STACY L. TUTTLE
VERONICA B. VALERIO
ELIZABETH L. VATH
JOEL M. VILLAVERT
TOBIE J. WATKINS
BRENDA D. WHITE
ROSEMARIE WIBISONO
BRIAN K. WIENHOFF
TIFFANY D. WILLIAMS
MICHELLE T. WISE
RHYS I. WOODALL
ZOE T. WOOLSTON
JONATHAN R. WURZELBACHER
KERI L. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

TRAVIS M. ALLEN
THOMAS R. BAIZE
KARL N. BLANCAFLOR
ROBERT DALE BOHNSACK
DANIEL S. CALL
STEVEN R. CUNEIO
GARY J. DAVIDSON
CRAIG MILTON FORSYTHE
DAVID M. HORTON
KEVIN M. HUDSON
PAUL B. JOYNER, JR.
JASON P. KIM
JASON T. KLODNICKI
DAVID R. LEONARD
CHRISTOPHER L. REEDER
DAVID D. REEDY
JONATHAN T. RUNNELS
DAVID Y. SUH
CHRISTOPHER D. UNDERWOOD II
JEROMY JAMES WELLS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

RICHARD S. BEYEA III
CHRISTIAN L. BISCOTTI
MATTHEW A. BOARTS
KRISTOFFER K. COX
LARRY J. FOWLER
JULIAN C. GAITHER
KENNETH E. JOHNSON, JR.
EUGENE F. LAHUE
CHRISTOPHER M. LAPACK
CHARLES R. MONTOYA, JR.
SCOTT P. NUPSON
RANDY L. SELLERS
MICHAEL D. SHANNON
MARK F. THOMAS
SAMMY C. TUCKER, JR.
TRAVIS C. YELTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

KEITH L. CLARK
MICHAEL E. CRABTREE
WILLIAM K. LIN
PAUL A. LONGO
VICTOR B. MAGGIO
JAMES R. MOORE
KYLE E. PELKEY
ENRIQUE E. ROSADO
JENNIE LEIGH L. STODDART

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

TALIB Y. ALI
JAY R. ALLEN
JASON G. ARNOLD
ANTHONY S. BANKES
VIKHYAT S. BEBARTA
JAMES E. BERMUDEZ
JOHN N. BERRY
ANTHONY I. BEUTLER
CHRISTOPHER T. BIRD
JEREMY W. CANNON
JERRY M. CLINE
ROBERT W. CRAIGGRAY
PAUL F. CRAWFORD, JR.
SCOTT M. CUMMIS
RONALD S. DAY
ANTONIO J. DELGADO
BRIAN L. DELMONACO
KELLY L. DORENKOTT
DAVID J. DUVAL
KENNETH S. EGERSTROM
MARY T. GUEST
GREGORY J. HAACK
CHAD A. HAMILTON
JASON T. HAYES
RACHEL A. HIGHT
MICHAEL GLENN HODGES
ERIC F. HOLT
BRANDON R. HORNE
CHRISTOPHER M. HUDSON
SEAN L. JERSEY
KEVIN J. KAPS
TONY S. KIM
PAULETTE D. LASSITER
MAXIMILIAN S. LEE
MARK D. LYMAN
ROBERT M. MONBERG
THOMAS O. MOORE
BRENDAN M. NOONE
SAMIA A. OCHIA
SAMUEL T. OLATUNBOSUN
STEVEN D. PEINE
MICHAEL C. PETRO
JENNIFER L. RAVENSCROFT
JOSEPH R. RICHARDS
JAMES B. SAMPSON
ZAIGA KAREN SEARS
PATRICK A. SHEA
DAVID L. STEINHISER II
GALE T. TUPER, JR.
CEASAR A. VALLE
JAMES F. WALROTH
STEVEN R. WARD
DERRICK B. WILLSEY
GABRIEL ZIMMERER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JOHN W. HECK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

ANNA HAMM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant colonel

JERMAL M. SCARBROUGH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant colonel

CYNTHIA A. RUTHERFORD

To be major

ANGELA SCEVOLA–DATTOLI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be colonel

SUSAN I. PANGELINAN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

RITA A. KOSTECKE

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 colonel

SCHAWN B. BRANCH
FRANK A. SMITH

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

JOHN P. O'BRIEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

IAN D. BRANUM
BRYAN P. HYDE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

JOSUE M. BELLINGER
BRYCE E. BURK
RALPH A. CACCI
ERIK M. DULLEA
DANIEL S. GOLDENBERG
THEODORE L. GRABARZ
THOMAS M. HOFFMANN
TIMOTHY J. KERR
DOUGLAS H. KLIMAN
DONALD E. MESERVE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

GEORGE J. EBERLY III
DAVID GARLINGHOUSE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

GREGORY K. EMERY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

DANIEL B. COPELAND
STEPHEN D. DONALD
JOHN E. HUDSON
GEORGE W. LASKEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be commander

CAROLYN A. WINNINGHAM

To be lieutenant commander

SARA M. BUSTAMANTE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

SCOTT W. ARNOLD
JAMES H. BLACK
CHRISTIAN D. BOLL
JOHN E. BRAUN
LOUIS O. CARL
MARK G. CARTER
LLOYD A. CHEE
KENNETH J. CHRISTY
DUNCAN M. CLENDENIN
GERALD P. DEARIE
BRIAN E. DONALDSON
JUSTIN E. DUGGER
KEITH D. EITNER
NATHAN J. ELDER
ALEXANDER W. ELLERMANN
CRAIG A. EUBANK
PHILLIP L. FAUCHEUX
BRIAN M. FERGUSON
JOHN E. FRITZ
ANTHONY J. GAREFFA
KENWOOD A. GERMANN
BRIAN J. GRANGER
ANDREW A. GREY
CHRISTOPHER K. GRILLONE
CHRISTOPHER E. GRONBECH
BRIAN D. GRUBBS
REGINALD H. HENDRIX
KEVIN G. HODER
ANTHONY J. LANZILLOTTI
MICHAEL J. LEONARD
RICHARD S. LOFGREN
THOMAS D. MALONEY
JEFFREY L. MARTY
ROBERT A. MCCORMICK, JR.
JEFFREY D. MCGEE
NICHOLAS J. MELFI III
CHARLES S. MERRILL IV
RICHARD W. MEYER
CHRISTOPHER S. MILES
ROBERT S. MITCHELL
JOSEPH W. MOORHOUSE
CHRISTOPHER C. NEWMAN
BLANDON N. PICL
JOHN F. PLUMB
JAMES T. POLICKOSKI
DOUGLAS W. SASSE III
MICHAEL S. SEEBERGER
MATTHEW R. SKONE
GRANT S. STAATS
DAVID J. STAVISH
AMOS STIBOLT
BRADLEY W. STORY
THOMAS J. TEUSCHL
RICHARD K. THORP
GEORGE N. TSANGARIS
GLEN A. VIADO
MICHAEL VILLEGAS
DOUGLAS R. VOLKMAN
GEORGE A. WALBORN II
SCOTT P. WALL
THOMAS F. WALSH
SCOTT A. YATES
KURT J. ZAHNEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

CHRISTOPHER P. BROWN
CASEY J. CASAD
ROBERT COOGAN
THOMAS E. DIXON
BRANDON D. FLOYD
JONATHAN R. HURST
MICHAEL D. JOHNS
JONAS C. JONES
WILLIAM E. MASKE

JOHN J. MOLINARI
SHAUN P. MURPHY
NATHANIEL J. STRANDQUIST
JONATHAN R. TOWNSEND
VAN T. WENNEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

SABRINA J. BOBKOWSKI
JENNIFER A. GORNOWICH
DIANE C. LEBLANC

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

KEVIN R. BOARDMAN
GWENDOLYN M. GRAVES
ANDREW T. HART
SEAN P. MCDONALD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

CARL O. PISTOLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

JON E. RUGG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

VICTOR S. CHEN
GARRETT D. KASPER
ELIZABETH A. ZIMMERMANNYOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

DONALD W. BABCOCK, JR.
ROBERT W. BOSSA
MARIO C. CAPUTO
LYNETTE M. CHURCH
CURT V. KURZENHAUSER
JOSEPH E. MORRISSEY
MICHAEL J. RODRIGUEZ
PHILIP J. SALTZMAN
ALEXANDER N. SOUKHANOV
STEVEN W. URWILLER
WARREN O. WAGUESPACK
BRADFORD L. WHEELER
JOHN J. WOODS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

GLEN A. DIELEUTERIO
ROBERT J. DODSON
MICHAEL P. MACLELLAN
STEVEN E. OWEN
LOUKAS PAPADOPOULOS
WILLIAM Y. PIKE

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate April 20, 2015:

THE JUDICIARY

GEORGE C. HANKS, JR., OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEATH TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this reckless and regressive bill.

My colleagues in the Majority often claim to be opposed to government spending they describe as "wasteful." But this bill is the epitome of wasteful spending. By permanently repealing the estate tax, without any additional revenue whatsoever to cover the losses, it increases our nation's deficit by almost $270 billion.

Make no mistake—tax breaks are spending. Moreover, this bill spends money on those who need it least. According to the Joint Committee on Taxation, only the wealthiest 0.2 percent of estates will benefit at all, and almost three quarters of the benefits will go to estates worth more than $20 million.

For every rich estate that reaps the benefits of this bill, there are ten thousand of our fellow citizens living in poverty. Yet the same House Majority that now supports this bill also passed a budget last month that would cut $125 billion from food stamps and kick up to 20 million Americans off Medicaid—all at a time when working families are struggling to make ends meet. Talk about misplaced priorities.

Madam Speaker, instead of spending hundreds of billions on a tax break for a wealthy elite, we should be directing more assistance to those who are in genuine need. That is why I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

ALL LIVES MATTER

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, April 4, 1968 in an unforgettable day because on that day the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man of peace who devoted his life to nonviolence, was struck down by an assassin's bullet in Memphis, Tennessee.

Sadly, April 4, 2015, will also take its place as a day of infamy because on that day in North Charleston, South Carolina, a man less celebrated but no less innocent, Walter Scott, was slain in an act of lethal violence that shocks the conscience.

I rise today to extend my deepest sympathies to the family and loved ones of Walter Scott, who was laid to rest this past Saturday, and call upon this Congress to enact legislation that will provide the resources and guidance needed for law enforcement personnel to maintain the trust and confidence and support of the communities they serve and the safeguards needed to protect our people from becoming victims of excessive or lethal force.

Mr. Speaker, the problems revealed by several of the more notorious incidents involving the use of lethal force against unarmed citizens that have captured the attention of the nation over the past several months require a national response because the problems identified are not isolated or limited to one region of the country.

For example, the death of 43 year-old Eric Garner resulting from the application of a NYPD police chokehold occurred in the Northeast and the death of 18-year-old Michael Brown and the resulting events in Ferguson occurred in the border state of Missouri.

The killing of 12 year-old Tamir Rice by a Cleveland police officer occurred in the Midwest and death of unarmed 26 year-old Jordan Baker by an off-duty Houston police officer occurred in Texas.

In Phoenix, Arizona, Rumain Brisbon, an unarmed black father of four, was shot to death when a police officer allegedly mistook his bottle of pills for a gun.

In Pasdena, California, 19-year-old Kendrec McDade was chased and shot seven times by two police officers after a 911 caller falsely reported he had been robbed at gunpoint by two black men, neither of whom in fact was armed.

And, of course, on April 4, the conscience of the nation was shocked by the horrifying killing of 50-year-old Walter Scott by a North Charleston police officer in the southern state of South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, while the problem is national in scope, it appears to affect disproportionately and adversely a particular demographic group: African American males.

Because all lives matter in our great nation, it is imperative that we in Congress act swiftly and decisively to focus much needed attention and resources on legislative proposals intended to address the problem of misuse of lethal force by law enforcement and to rebuild the public trust and confidence needed to ensure that law enforcement receive and maintain the support of the communities they serve and protect.

As Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I note that are several promising legislative criminal justice reform initiatives that have been introduced and are worthy of consideration.

Among them are H.R. 59, the "Build TRUST in Municipal Law Enforcement Act of 2015" (Rep. JACKSON LEE); H.R. 1459, the Democracy Restoration Act of 2015 (Rep. CONYERS); H.R. 1810, the "Collection and Analysis of Data to Educate and Train Law Enforcement Officers" ("CADET Act"); H.R. 920, the "Smarter Sentencing Act of 2015" (Rep. LABRADOR); and S. 675, the "Record Expungement Designed to Enhance Employment Act of 2015" (REDEEM Act) (Sens. PAUL and BOOKER).

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year FBI Director James Comey delivered a remarkable speech at Georgetown University in which he laid out several hard truths about the administration of the criminal justice system and state of community policing in our country.

One of the hardest truths discussed by Director Comey is the fact we have limited information and inadequate data regarding the scope and extent of the problems endemic in the criminal justice system.

This lack of information hampers the ability of policymakers and administrators at the federal, state, and local level to identify and implement laws, policies, and practices to remedy identified problems.

The Judiciary Committee should immediately conduct hearings to educate the Congress and the public on the nature and extent of deficiencies in the nation's criminal justice systems and the efficacy of proposed solutions.

Specifically, hearings should be held to investigate practices and policies governing:

1. the use of lethal force by state and local police departments;
2. educational requirements, mental health and psychological evaluations, and training in non-violent conflict resolution received by veteran law enforcement officers and new recruits; and
3. the feasibility and efficacy of making greater use of technological devices such as body cameras.

A fourth area to be explored is the state of the social science research in the academic study of criminal justice reform because there is much the Committee can learn by engaging leading experts in the field regarding the state of knowledge in their respective disciplines.

Mr. Speaker, reforming the criminal justice system so that it dispenses justice impartially and equally to all persons is one of the most important challenges facing this Congress.

And it is a goal that can be achieved if we work together in a spirit of goodwill and bipartisan cooperation.

There are few things we can do that will provide a greater service to our nation.

HONORING BRONXVILLE WOMEN'S CLUB 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, as Congressman for New York's 16th District, I am always honored to have community groups working to better both their neighborhoods and the lives of those who live in them. For 90 years, the Bronxville Women's Club (BWC) has done just that, serving the greater good in Bronxville and its surrounding area.

The BWC was founded in 1925, just as women's clubs were popularized and forming all throughout Westchester County and the country. Born out of the suffrage movement, the club's original mission has expanded over the years to include philanthropic work geared toward education and the arts, in addition to overall communal improvement. The organization's stated mission of serving as a source

and center for enrichment, and contributing to the community through philanthropic work and cultural projects, has made the BWC one of the preeminent community organizations in the entire county.

As the BWC celebrates its 90th Anniversary, it is also celebrating two incredible honorees; Lorraine Lange, recipient of the Woman of the Year Award, and Helen Marie Ringeisen, this year's Distinguished Cultural Leadership Award winner. Both of these women embody the spirit of the BWC, and are most deserving of this wonderful honor.

Although many of the post-suffrage movement women's clubs closed, the BWC has thrived, and is often referred to around Bronxville as "the best kept secret in town." Their success is a testament to their leadership, their members, and all of the incredible work they've done. I am proud to represent such a remarkable club and I wish them another 90 years of amazing success and achievement.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 22

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Vanessa Lorraine Allen Sutherland, of Virginia, to be a Member and Chairperson of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.
SD–406

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine State Department reauthorization, focusing on ensuring effective United States diplomacy within a reasonable budget.
SD–419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine securing the border, focusing on understanding threats and strategies for the northern border.
SD–342

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Transportation.
SD–138

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine how to better communicate weather to enhance commerce and safety.
SR–253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of and potential reforms to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
SD–366

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for defense innovation and research.
SD–192

10:45 a.m.
Committee on Finance
Business meeting to consider S. 995, to establish congressional trade negotiating objectives and enhanced consultation requirements for trade negotiations, to provide for consideration of trade agreements, an original bill relating to extension of the trade adjustment assistance program, and amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the credit for health insurance costs of certain eligible individuals, an original bill to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Generalized System of Preferences, the preferential duty treatment program for Haiti, and an original bill to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities.
SD–G50

2 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
SD–138

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
To hold hearings to examine reform of the defense acquisition system in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR–232A

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To hold hearings to examine Air Force and Navy nuclear programs and the implementation of nuclear enterprise review recommendations in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR–222

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing on tribal transportation, focusing on pathways to safer roads in Indian country; to be immediately followed by a business meeting to consider S. 710, to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996.
SD–628

3 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
To hold hearings to examine the United States without nuclear power.
SD–192

APRIL 23

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Health and Human Services.
SD–124

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on building on the successes of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP–21) to deliver safe, efficient, and effective public transportation services and projects.
SD–538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security
To hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, focusing on airport issues and infrastructure financing.
SR–253

Committee on Finance
Subcommittee on Health Care
To hold hearings to examine the impact of the medical device tax on jobs, innovation, and patients.
SD–215

Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy
To hold hearings to examine the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).
SD–419

Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 993, to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems, and the nominations of Sally Quillian Yates, of Georgia, to be Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice, Kara Farnandez Stoll, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, and Roseann A. Ketchmark, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri.
SD–226

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Business meeting to consider S. 552, to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to provide for increased limitations on leverage for multiple licenses under common control, S. 957, to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs to help create jobs, S. 958, to amend the Small Business Act to provide for team and joint venture offers for certain contracts, S. 966, to extend the low-interest refinancing provisions under the Local Development Business Loan Program of the Small Business Administration, S. 967, to require the Small Business Administration to make information relating

to lenders making covered loans publicly available, S. 999, to amend the Small Business Act to provide for improvements to small business development centers, S. 1001, to establish authorization levels for general business loans for fiscal years 2015 and 2016, and an original bill entitled, ''SCORE for Small Business Act of 2015''.

SR–428A

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for Department of Defense military construction and military family housing programs.

SD–138

2 p.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Anne Elizabeth Wall, of Illinois, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, Brodi L. Fontenot, of Louisiana, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury, and Rafael J. Lopez, of California, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

SD–215

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine the Armenian genocide and the ongoing quest for justice.

RHOB–2175

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest

To hold hearings to examine the Administration's Central American minors refugee/parole program.

SD–226

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH–219

APRIL 28

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine Untied States security policy in Europe.

SD–G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the Administration's Quadrennial Energy Review.

SD–366

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the future of medical innovation for patients.

SD–430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management

To hold hearings to examine the proper role of judicial review in the federal regulatory process.

SD–342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Homeland Security.

SD–226

APRIL 29

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 248, to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act.

SD–628

APRIL 30

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 703, to reauthorize the weatherization and State energy programs, S. 720, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and S. 858, to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to encourage the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities.

SD–366

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

To hold hearings to examine the Bureau of Land Management's final rule on hydraulic fracturing.

SD–366

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2259–S2279

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1007–1016, S. Res. 140–141, and S. Con. Res. 13. **Page S2272**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled ''Activities of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs During the 113th Congress''. (S. Rept. No. 114–33) **Page S2272**

Measures Passed:

Authorizing the Use of Emancipation Hall: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 34, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces. **Pages S2276–77**

Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 141, supporting the goals and ideals of Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day. **Page S2277**

Measures Considered:

Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2260–62**

Pending:

McConnell (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 1120, to strengthen the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act by incorporating additional bipartisan amendments. **Pages S2260–62**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 11 a.m., on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. **Page S2277**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By a unanimous vote of 91 yeas (Vote No. EX. 155), George C. Hanks, Jr., of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. **Pages S2263–65, S2279**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Adam J. Szubin, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes.

Jeffrey J. Hawkins, Jr., of California, to be Ambassador to the Central African Republic.

5 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

5 Army nominations in the rank of general.

2 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, and Navy. **Pages S2277–79**

Messages from the House: **Page S2269**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S2269**

Executive Communications: **Page S2269**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S2270–72**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2272–74**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S2274**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2268–76**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S2276**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2276**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—155) **Page S2265**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 6:43 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2277.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

2020 CENSUS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the 2020 Census, focusing on challenges facing the bureau for a modern, cost-effective survey, including

recommended actions to be implemented before potential cost savings can be realized, after receiving testimony from John Thompson, Director, Census Bureau, Department of Commerce; and Robert Goldenkoff, Director, Strategic Issues, and Carol Cha, Director, Information Technology Acquisition Management Issues, both of the Government Accountability Office.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 3 public bills, H.R. 1894–1896, were introduced. **Page H2318**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H2318**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 152, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement to provide for management of the free-roaming wild horses in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge (H. Rept. 114–84);

H.R. 471, to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–85, Part 1);

H. Con. Res. 21, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby (H. Rept. 114–86); and

H. Con. Res. 25, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition (H. Rept. 114–87). **Page H2318**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Smith (NE) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2317**

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no yea-and-nay votes, and there were no recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET CONFERENCE

Conferees met to resolve the differences between the Senate and House adopted versions of S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025, but did not complete action thereon.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D371)*

H.R. 2, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program. Signed on April 16, 2015. (Public Law 114–10)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine opportunities and challenges for agriculture trade with Cuba, 10 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, 2:30 p.m., SD–124.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Peter Levine, of Maryland, to be Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to hold open and closed hearings to examine Department of Defense policy and programs to counter threats to the United States from terrorism and irregular warfare, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on building on the success of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP–21) to deliver safe, efficient and effective public transportation services and projects, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation,

and the Internet, to hold hearings to examine advancing telehealth through connectivity, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security, to hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, focusing on certification and U.S. aviation manufacturing competitiveness, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Finance: to resume hearings to examine Congress and United States tariff policy, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development, to hold hearings to examine improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine improving accountability and oversight of juvenile justice grants, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine fulfilling the promise to women veterans, 2:30 p.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, markup on H.J. Res. 43, disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act of 2014, 5 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 1560, the "Protecting Cyber Networks Act"; and H.R. 1731, the "National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act of 2015", 5 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, markup on H.R. 571, the "Veterans Affairs Retaliation Prevention Act of 2015"; H.R. 1015, the "Protecting Business Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2015"; H.R. 1016, the "Biological Implant Tracking and Veteran Safety Act of 2015"; and H.R. 1017, the "Veterans Information Security Improvement Act", 4 p.m., 334 Cannon.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of April 21 through April 24, 2015

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, at approximately 11 a.m., Senate will continue consideration of S. 178, Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act.

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

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: April 21, to hold hearings to examine opportunities and challenges for agriculture trade with Cuba, 10 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Appropriations: April 21, Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, 2:30 p.m., SD–124.

April 22, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Transportation, 10 a.m., SD–138.

April 22, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for defense innovation and research, 10:30 a.m., SD–192.

April 22, Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 2 p.m., SD–138.

April 22, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine the United States without nuclear power, 3 p.m., SD–192.

April 23, Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD–124.

April 23, Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for Department of Defense military construction and military family housing programs, 10:30 a.m., SD–138.

Committee on Armed Services: April 21, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Peter Levine, of Maryland, to be Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

April 21, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to hold open and closed hearings to examine Department of Defense policy and programs to counter threats to the United States from terrorism and irregular warfare, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

April 22, Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine reform of the defense acquisition system in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR–232A.

April 22, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine Air Force and Navy nuclear programs and the implementation of nuclear enterprise review recommendations in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: April 21, to hold hearings to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on building on the success of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP–21) to deliver safe, efficient and effective public transportation services and projects, 10 a.m., SD–538.

April 23, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on building on the successes of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP–21) to deliver safe, efficient, and effective public transportation services and projects, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: April 21, Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, to hold hearings to examine advancing telehealth through connectivity, 10 a.m., SR–253.

April 21, Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security, to hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, focusing on certification and U.S. aviation manufacturing competitiveness, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

April 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine how to better communicate weather to enhance commerce and safety, 10 a.m., SR–253.

April 23, Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security, to hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, focusing on airport issues and infrastructure financing, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: April 22, to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of and potential reforms to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: April 22, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Vanessa Lorraine Allen Sutherland, of Virginia, to be a Member and Chairperson of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, 9:30 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: April 21, to resume hearings to examine Congress and United States tariff policy, 10 a.m., SD–215.

April 22, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 995, to establish congressional trade negotiating objectives and enhanced consultation requirements for trade negotiations, to provide for consideration of trade agreements, an original bill relating to extension of the trade adjustment assistance program, and amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the credit for health insurance costs of certain eligible individuals, an original bill to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Generalized System of Preferences, the preferential duty treatment program for Haiti, and an original bill to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities, 10:45 a.m., SD–G50.

April 23, Subcommittee on Health Care, to hold hearings to examine the impact of the medical device tax on jobs, innovation, and patients, 10 a.m., SD–215.

April 23, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Anne Elizabeth Wall, of Illinois, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, Brodi L. Fontenot, of Louisiana, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury, and Rafael J. Lopez, of California, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, 2 p.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: April 21, Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development, to hold hearings to examine improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.

April 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine State Department reauthorization, focusing on ensuring effective United States diplomacy within a reasonable budget, 9:30 a.m., SD–419.

April 23, Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy, to hold hearings to examine the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: April 22, to hold hearings to examine securing the border, focusing on understanding threats and strategies for the northern border, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: April 22, to hold an oversight hearing on tribal transportation, focusing on pathways to safer roads in Indian country; to be immediately followed by a business meeting to consider S. 710, to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: April 21, to hold hearings to examine improving accountability and oversight of juvenile justice grants, 10 a.m., SD–226.

April 23, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 993, to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems, and the nominations of Sally Quillian Yates, of Georgia, to be Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice, Kara Farnandez Stoll, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, and Roseann A. Ketchmark, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, 10 a.m., SD–226.

April 23, Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest, to hold hearings to examine the Administration's Central American minors refugee/parole program, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: April 23, business meeting to consider S. 552, to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to provide for increased limitations on leverage for multiple licenses under common control, S. 957, to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs to help create jobs, S. 958, to amend the Small Business Act to provide for team and joint venture offers for certain contracts, S. 966, to extend the low-interest refinancing provisions under the Local Development Business Loan Program of the Small Business Administration, S. 967, to require the Small Business Administration to make information relating to lenders making covered loans publicly available, S. 999, to amend the Small Business Act to provide for improvements to small business development centers, S. 1001, to establish authorization levels for general business loans for fiscal years 2015 and 2016, and an original bill entitled, "SCORE for Small Business Act of 2015", 10 a.m., SR–428A.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: April 21, to hold hearings to examine fulfilling the promise to women veterans, 2:30 p.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: April 21, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

April 23, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, April 22, Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, hearing to review reauthorization of the U.S. Grain Standards Act, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

April 22, Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture, hearing to review reauthorization of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act, 1:30 p.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, April 22, Full Committee, markup on Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, FY 2016; Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill, FY 2016; and Report on the Suballocation of Budget Allocations for FY 2016, 10:45 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

April 23, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing on United States Customs and Border Protection budget, 8 a.m., B–308 Rayburn.

April 23, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, markup on appropriations bill, FY 2016, 9:30 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.

April 23, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing on Federal Emergency Management Agency budget, 10 a.m., B–308 Rayburn.

April 23, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, hearing on programs supporting Native Americans budget, 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, April 22, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, markup on H.R. 1735, the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016'', 2:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

April 22, Subcommittee on Readiness, markup on H.R. 1735, the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016'', 4 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

April 23, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, markup on H.R. 1735, the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016'', 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

April 23, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, markup on H.R. 1735, the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016'', 9:30 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

April 23, Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, markup on H.R. 1735, the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016'', 10:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

April 23, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, markup on H.R. 1735, the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016'', 12 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, April 22, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled ''Examining the Challenges Facing Native American Schools'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

April 23, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled ''Protecting America's Workers: An Enforcement Update from the Mine Safety and Health Administration'', 9 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, April 22, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, markup on the ''Ratepayer Protection Act'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

April 22, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, markup on the ''Targeting Rogue and Opaque Letters (TROL) Act'', 12 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

April 23, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled ''Title II: 21st Century Workforce'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

April 23, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Combatting the Opioid Abuse Epidemic: Professional and Academic Perspectives'', 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, April 22, Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing, hearing entitled ''A Survey of Global Terrorism and Terrorist Financing'', 10 a.m., HVC–210.

April 23, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled ''Examining Regulatory Burdens—Regulator Perspective'', 9:15 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, April 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Nuclear Agreement with Iran: Can't Trust, Can We Verify?'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

April 22, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled ''Accountability and Transformation: Tier Rankings in the Fight Against Human Trafficking'', 1:30 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

April 22, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, hearing entitled ''Poaching and Terrorism: A National Security Challenge'', 3 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

April 23, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 237, the ''FTO Passport Revocation Act of 2015''; H.R. 907, the ''United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015''; H.R. 1493, the ''Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act''; H.R. 1567, the ''Global Food Security Act of 2015''; and H. Res. 50, calling for the release of Ukrainian fighter pilot Nadiya Savchenko, who was captured by Russian forces in Eastern Ukraine and has been held illegally in a Russian prison since July 2014, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

April 23, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing entitled ''The U.S. Rebalance in East Asia: Budget Priorities for FY 2016'', 1 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, April 22, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, hearing entitled ''Strategic Perspectives on the Bioterrorism Threat'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

April 22, Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, hearing entitled ''Acquisition Oversight: How Effectively Is DHS Safeguarding Taxpayer Dollars?'', 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on Natural Resources, April 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Innovations in Safety Since the 2010 Macondo Incident'', 9:30 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

April 22, Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs, hearing entitled ''The Obama Administration's Part 83 Revisions and How They May Allow the Interior Department To Create Tribes, not Recognize Them'', 4 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

April 23, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing entitled ''The Devastating Impacts of Wildland Fires and the Need to Better Manage our Overgrown, Fire-prone National Forests'', 9 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, April 22, Subcommittee on the Interior, hearing entitled ''Examining the Department of Energy's Excess Uranium Management Plan'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

April 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Enhancing Cybersecurity of Third-Party Contractors and Vendors'', 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, April 22, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1806, the ''America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015'', 10:15 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

April 23, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Hydraulic Fracturing: Banning Proven Technologies on Possibilities Instead of Probabilities'', 9 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, April 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Small Business, Big Threat: Protecting Small Businesses from Cyber Attacks'', 11 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, April 22, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled ''A Review of the President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request for the United States Army Corps of Engineers and Tennessee Valley Authority'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, April 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Philadelphia and Oakland: Systemic Failures and Mismanagement'', 10:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.

April 23, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on draft legislation to improve reproductive treatment provided to certain disabled veterans; draft legislation to direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report on the Veterans Health Administration; H.R. 1769, the ''Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015''; H.R. 271, the ''COVER Act''; H.R. 627, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the definition of homeless veteran for purposes of benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 1369, the ''Veterans Access to Extended Care Act of 2015''; and H.R. 1575, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service in the Armed Forces, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, April 22, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing on the 2015 tax filing season and general operations at the Internal Revenue Service, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

April 22, Full Committee, hearing on the expanding American trade with accountability and transparency, 3 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, April 22, Subcommittee on Department of Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture, hearing on USDI budget, 2 p.m., HVC–304. This hearing will be closed.

April 23, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, hearing on Department of Energy and Department of Homeland Security budget, 9 a.m., HVC–304. This hearing will be closed.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: April 23, to hold hearings to examine the Armenian genocide and the ongoing quest for justice, 2 p.m., 2175, Rayburn Building.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, April 21

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond one hour), Senate will continue consideration of S. 178, Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Tuesday, April 21

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 1195—Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Advisory Boards Act (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of the following measures under suspension of the rules: 1) H.R. 471—Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2015, 2) S. 535—Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015, 3) H. Con. Res. 21—Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby, and 4) H. Con. Res. 25—Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

DeLauro, Rosa L., Conn., E529
Engel, Eliot L., N.Y., E529
Jackson Lee, Sheila, Tex., E529

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