

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING NICHOLAS JAMES  
KUNELS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas James Kunels. Nicholas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nicholas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nicholas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nicholas has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nicholas James Kunels for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING RYAN LAFFERTY  
FOR HIS RECOGNITION AS A  
MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD WINNER

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Ryan Lafferty, a teacher in the Bellevue School District who has been recognized as a winner of the prestigious Milken Educator Award.

The Milken Educator Awards are bestowed upon educators by the Milken Family Foundation to celebrate, elevate, and activate excellence in the teaching profession. The award is given to teachers who exhibit exceptional educational talent as evidenced by effective instructional practices and educational accomplishments beyond the classroom.

Mr. Lafferty has been a teacher at the International School in Bellevue for six years and is highly praised for his interdisciplinary project-based teaching style, which incorporates seemingly unrelated subjects like math, history, and the arts. He has developed a problem-based curriculum for Advanced Placement Physics where students build Roman arches, projectile instruments such as slingshots and catapults, and a single-string instrument called a Diddley bow. Mr. Lafferty's classes are in high demand due to his track record of implementing creative lesson plans and for his infectious positive attitude.

Mr. Lafferty is also beloved for the positive influence that he provides for his students. He

makes himself available to students outside of class time if they need academic help, or if they need to talk for any other reason. He prioritizes the success of his students by regularly hosting meetings with students to determine what works in his class, and what can be improved. It is for these reasons that Mr. Lafferty is considered a role model by many of his students.

Mr. Lafferty, who grew up in Redmond, graduated from the University of Washington in 2008 and received a Master's Degree in Teaching from Seattle University in 2010. He has worked with the Bellevue School District, the University of Washington and the George Lucas Educational Foundation to further develop his AP Physics curriculum in hopes of the program being implemented nationally. Lafferty is a National Honors Society advisor who serves on the school's middle and high school science clubs and travels to the state science bowl.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate teacher Ryan Lafferty for being honored with the Milken Educator Award. It is my great pleasure to recognize his dedication and service to his students and to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on roll call numbers 102, 103, and 104, I was in Texas on District Business.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

HONORING MATTHEW BAYS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Bays. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Matthew led his troop as an Assistant Patrol Leader. Matthew has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Matthew constructed a life jacket loaner board for the Smithville Lake swim beach, providing life jackets for those who may not have their own.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Bays for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state that on March 2, 2016, I was detained in my district and missed the one roll call vote of the day. Had I been present I would have voted:

AYE—Roll Call No. 105—H.R. 3716—Ensuring Access to Quality Medicaid Providers Act.

HONORING RARE DISEASE WEEK

**HON. TOM MARINO**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to rare diseases as we recognize "Rare Disease Week."

A "rare disease," also referred to as an orphan disease, is any disease that affects a small percentage of the population. The National Institute of Health defines a rare disease as one that affects less than 200,000 people in the United States. The impact of rare diseases is certainly not small; there are over 7,000 rare diseases that affect 30 million people, or 10% of the United States population.

As the father of someone who suffers from Cystic Fibrosis, a rare disease affecting only 30,000 people in the United States, I know the difficulty of living with a rare disease and the financial burdens of care and treatment for families. Cystic Fibrosis requires specialized care that can cost upwards of \$15,000 a year and hundreds of thousands of dollars over the course of a lifetime. I have done everything I can to make sure that my daughter receives the highest quality care as she continues her fight against Cystic Fibrosis.

Thanks to advancements in medicine, the average life expectancy of someone who suffers from Cystic Fibrosis is now 37. This is much different than 50 years ago when a child diagnosed with the disease would be lucky to live to their teens.

Every year we recognize rare disease week as a way to raise awareness and to stress the importance of funding rare disease research. It is my hope one day we can make rare, incurable diseases a thing of the past.

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

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

RETIREMENT OF BISHOP T. LARRY  
KIRKLAND FROM THE AFRICAN  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**HON. KAREN BASS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to make note of the retirement of The Right Reverend Theodore Larry Kirkland, Sr. from active service after over a half century of ministry, as he steps down at the African Methodist Episcopal Church Fifth District General Conference today.

Bishop Kirkland's ministry of over 50 years has often placed him in the public eye and in the company of dignitaries. For example, he presided over the Homegoing Services of Deaconess Rosa Parks at Brown Chapel AME Church in Montgomery, Alabama, an event broadcast worldwide, and he welcomed then-Senator Barack Obama to the Ninth District's observance of Bloody Sunday, in Selma. He is the author of several books on church growth and he has become known for developing strong relationships across denominational and cultural lines.

Educated at Alcorn State University, University of Mississippi, Claremont School of Theology, and California School of Theology, Bishop Kirkland was the founding pastor of Brookins Community AME Church in Los Angeles, California. Arriving in 1977, he grew the congregation from twelve early members to over eight thousand during his twenty-year tenure.

Elevated in 1996, he became the 114th elected and consecrated bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. His first assignment was to the Seventeenth Episcopal District encompassing the countries of Zaire, Zambia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi and Zimbabwe. In 2000 he returned to appointment as Ecumenical Officer for the Denomination, served a term as President of the Council of Bishops, and from 2002 led the Ninth Episcopal District in Alabama, where he sought to support the community beyond the pulpit through a range of programs including computer literacy training and high-quality health services for the needy.

For the past eight years, Bishop Kirkland has presided over the Fifth Episcopal District which includes fourteen western states. During this time, Bishop Kirkland has focused on inspiring ministry and serving the greater community. I would like to salute Bishop Kirkland and his family, especially his wife Mrs. Mary Kirkland, and thank him for his service to the faith and the community.

HONORING MICHAEL IRWIN SEARS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Irwin Sears. Michael is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Michael has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Michael has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Irwin Sears for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE 28TH ANNIVERSARY OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE ARMENIAN COMMUNITY SUMGAIT, AZERBAIJAN

**HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, February 27 marked the 28th anniversary of harrowing violence against the Armenian community in Sumgait, Azerbaijan.

I am proud to stand today with the Armenian-American community, including many of my constituents in Massachusetts, in remembrance and mourning of this unspeakable tragedy.

In February of 1988, anti-Armenian rallies through Azerbaijan gave way to waves of ethnically-motivated violence, death and destruction. In the aftermath of these terrible events, Azerbaijan's Armenian community all but disappeared, with thousands displaced, culminating in a war against the people of Nagorno Karabakh.

That war resulted in almost 30,000 dead on both sides. Hundreds of thousands of refugees were forced to flee their homes. And to this day, those who lost their lives or were displaced by this violence still seek resolution and justice.

Many displaced Armenian families have sought refuge in America, and are now making vital contributions in the Fifth District of Massachusetts. Proudly, our diverse District is home to one of the largest Armenian communities in the nation. Together, our community is a thriving example of strength and perseverance in the face of extreme adversity.

Like the persecution of too many others before it, the lessons of the Sumgait Pogrom must not be forgotten.

We have a moral obligation to promote tolerance and justice, and we have a duty to recognize the atrocities that have kept us from our common goal.

RECOGNIZING KIRK ADAMS FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND, INC.

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Kirk Adams, President and CEO of the Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc., for

his contributions and service to the blind community as he brings his leadership to his new role as President and CEO of the American Federation for the Blind.

In 2008, Kirk became the first blind CEO and President of the Lighthouse for the Blind, an organization which provides independence and self-sufficiency through employment for people who are blind, deafblind, and blind with other disabilities. During his tenure as CEO, Kirk oversaw significant growth of the Lighthouse for the Blind's footprint across the country by expanding to eleven new locations. Each location added to the sustainability of the Lighthouse, while also empowering new groups of individuals to be gainfully employed.

Prior to his executive role at the Lighthouse for the Blind, Kirk served as the General Manager of Administration and as the Director of Public Relations and Resource Development at the Lighthouse. Kirk is credited for crafting the Lighthouse's successful fundraising strategy, which has greatly magnified their range of services offered and the number of individuals who are lifted up through employment opportunities.

Outside of his work at the Lighthouse for the Blind, Kirk is deeply involved in the community. He is a member of the Governor's Task Force on Disability and Employment and the Seattle Public Library's Strategic Plan Advisory Committee. He has served on the boards of the Aerospace Futures Alliance, the Association of Washington Business, and the American Federation for the Blind. He is also the former Treasurer and member of the Board of the National Association for the Employment of People Who Are Blind.

Kirk graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Economics from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. He earned his Master's Degree in Not-For-Profit Leadership from Seattle University, and is working toward his doctorate in Leadership and Change at Antioch University.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Kirk Adams for his admirable leadership and congratulate him on his role as President and CEO of the Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. His unrelenting dedication to the blind community serves as an example of the tremendous impact one person can have.

HONORING MATTHEW C. GAGER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew C. Gager. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Matthew led his troop as the Senior Patrol Leader and has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the

Arrow. Matthew has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Matthew installed a concrete pad under a shelter house in a city park in Smithville, Missouri, and worked with the Smithville Parks Board and the Smithville Board of Alderman to secure funding for the project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew C. Gager for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATRICIA BRESEE

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my good friend Patricia Bresee, a highly respected and recognized expert in juvenile law, who has served on the Board of Directors of the California Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for nine years as a remarkable leader with exceptional integrity and the capacity to inspire everyone around her. Pat Bresee's devotion to children is unmatched and she has dedicated her entire professional life to advocate for those in need. We are very fortunate that she will continue her advocacy for children in the dependency system through service on the Board of Directors for National CASA.

Pat served as a Superior Court Commissioner in San Mateo County for 15 years. She was assigned to sit as a Juvenile Court Judge, handling dependency and delinquency issues and adoptions and guardianships. She was one of the original members of the California Judicial Council's Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee and served as the chair of the Juvenile Law Rules and Forms Committee. She teaches at the California Center for Judicial Education and trains attorneys and judicial officers in Juvenile Delinquency Law. She still manages to find time to be a regular presenter at Beyond the Bench and fills in as a judge at the Juvenile Court in San Mateo County.

Her commitment to fight for justice is unwavering and she has freely volunteered her expertise and time to a number of organizations including the American Leadership Forum Silicon Valley, the Peninsula Community Foundation, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the San Mateo County First Five Commission, and most importantly, California CASA. I had the great honor and pleasure of working with Pat in her role at the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission and the San Mateo County Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care. Both commissions made recommendations on ways in which the courts could improve safety, permanency, well-being and fairness for children and families in our state.

Pat's outstanding work has been proclaimed by the California Judges Association in 1994 when she was named Juvenile Court Judge of the Year and again in 1998 by National CASA as Judge of the Year. Judge Bresee graduated from Purdue University and earned her law degree from San Francisco Law School.

She was admitted into the State Bar of California in 1972. When she is not fighting for justice, Pat likes to travel, attend the theater, read and lift weights.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the truly remarkable legal career of Patricia Bresee who continues to dedicate her life to advocate for children and thereby improves society as a whole. She is an outstanding example of a person with a moral compass who brings out the best in others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOYCE BEATTY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Thursday, March 3, 2016, in order to attend a funeral of a dear friend. I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call vote numbers 106, 107, 108, 109, and 110.

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted NAY on roll call votes 106, 107, and 109.

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted AYE on roll call votes 108 and 110.

HONORING GEORGE ANTHONY DONNELLI

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize George Anthony Donnelly. George is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

George has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years George has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, George has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending George Anthony Donnelly for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GLENN THOMPSON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 109, I was absent during the roll call on final passage of H.R. 4557 because I was meeting with constituents from Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District.

Had I been present, I would have voted "YES."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, on roll call nos. 103 and 104, I was unable to vote, as I was attending a memorial program honoring Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Antonin Scalia, who was a constituent and neighbor of mine. Roll no. 103 was H.R. 136, which designated a post office at Camp Pendleton, CA as the "Camp Pendleton Medal of Honor Post Office"; and Roll no. 104 was H.R. 3735, which designated a post office in Winston Salem, NC as the "Maya Angelou Memorial Post Office".

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on both.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRED SCHEA

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a lifetime of dedicated community service.

Fred Scea of New Britain Township has been a fixture in local banking for decades, but is equally as recognizable as a champion of Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County and an advocate for its mission of providing affordable housing for those in need.

It is with great pride that I recognize him as the recipient of Habitat for Humanity's Lifetime Achievement Award. This well-deserved recognition highlights Fred's staunch support for the organization's laudable mission as well as his commitment to countless other community and civic organizations that benefit from his involvement.

Congratulations to Fred on this tremendous accomplishment and I thank him for his years of selfless effort.

HONORING ETHAN ALLEN VENTRESS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ethan Allen Ventress. Ethan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ethan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ethan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably,

Ethan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ethan Allen Ventress for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF RARE  
DISEASE WEEK

**HON. ROD BLUM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Rare Disease Caucus, I rise today in recognition of Rare Disease Week and those in the First District of Iowa suffering from rare diseases.

This week, activists from all across the country have come to Capitol Hill to educate Members of Congress on the struggles of all rare diseases and advocating for science-driven public policy to bring life-saving treatment, drugs, and procedures to the numerous individuals suffering from rare diseases.

Last July, I voted in favor of H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act and have been a strong advocate for the National Institutes of Health and their mission. On behalf of all Americans suffering from rare diseases, I will continue to advocate for the passage of legislation which drives innovation, research, and treatment for the community.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand with me in the fight to cure rare diseases.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
DESALES UNIVERSITY

**HON. CHARLES W. DENT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to bring the 50th Anniversary of DeSales University to the attention of the House.

Named in honor of Saint Francis de Sales, DeSales was founded after Bishop Joseph McShea organized a survey of Catholic education opportunities in the Allentown Diocese. The study indicated there was a need for a Catholic College in the Lehigh Valley area of the Allentown Diocese.

The Oblates of St. Francis de Sales broke ground for the new college in May of 1964 on a 500 acre tract located in Lehigh County's Upper Saucon Township. DeSales accepted its first class of freshmen in September 1965 under its original name—Allentown College of St. Francis de Sales.

The ensuing decades brought growth—both in the number of students enrolled and in the curriculum offered.

In March 2000, Allentown College proudly became DeSales University.

Currently, DeSales has a total enrollment of over 3,000 traditional, graduate and evening students and nearly 1,600 full-time undergraduate students. The school offers 41 majors and 31 minors and boasts over 100 faculty members.

DeSales plays an integral role in the Lehigh Valley's educational network and within the community. DeSales' graduates have enjoyed tremendous success across the fields of business, medicine, philosophy, literature, science and teaching.

It is my pleasure to congratulate the students, alumni, faculty and staff of DeSales University as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary. It is my hope that a future member of this House will be able to enter a congratulatory record on their behalf fifty years from now as well.

THE GROWING THREAT OF CHOLERA AND OTHER DISEASES IN  
THE MIDDLE EAST

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, during the last several years, conflicts in the Middle East have cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, primarily in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. As a result of conflicts in these countries, as well as the influx of refugees from conflict zones into surrounding countries such as Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon, many of those who die are the victim of disease.

Almost 17 million people in the region are in need of humanitarian assistance, including roughly four million refugees who have fled their countries and an additional 13 million people who have left their homes but are internally displaced within their countries.

A hearing I convened last week examined the scope of the cholera and other disease threats to determine what can and should be done to control it and minimize their spread beyond the Middle East.

The World Health Organization reported the spread of a cholera epidemic that first began in Iraq in 2007 that crossed over into Iran, Syria and is considered the region's greatest, although not only, health threat. These threats are worsened by the targeting of health workers in Syria and an Islamic State that has no experience and little interest in providing social services. Thus, cholera and other diseases are untreated, often unreported and pose a significant health threat in the region due to poor sanitation and overcrowding in areas such as refugee camps.

Cholera is an acute diarrheal disease that can cause death within hours if left untreated. Roughly 80% of those who contract the disease do not develop symptoms, leaving some uncertainty about precisely how many people contract the disease annually. Scientists estimate that between 1.4 and 4.3 million people contract cholera annually, of whom 28,000 to 142,000 die. Cholera bacteria are present in the feces of infected people for one to ten days after infection and can be spread to others if they ingest food or water that is contaminated with their fecal matter. The spread of cholera is mostly facilitated by inadequate water and sanitation management and outbreaks are common in areas where basic infrastructure is unavailable, such as urban slums and camps for internally displaced persons and refugees.

As devastating as this cholera epidemic has been and can be going forward, we must also

remember the MERS epidemic of three years ago. The Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, or MERS, is a respiratory illness. It is caused by a virus called Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus, or MERS-CoV. This virus was first reported in 2012 in Saudi Arabia. It is different from any other coronaviruses that have been found in people before.

MERS-CoV, like other coronaviruses, is thought to spread from an infected person's respiratory secretions, such as through coughing. However, the precise ways the virus spreads are not currently well understood. MERS-CoV has spread from ill people to others through close contact, such as caring for or living with an infected person. Infected people have spread MERS-CoV to others even in healthcare settings, such as hospitals. This transmission pattern is more likely when medical facilities and health workers are in short supply.

The conflicts and political crises in the Middle East have brought anguish, suffering, and severe declines in health to people throughout the region. The most catastrophic case by far is Syria, where more than a million people have experienced traumatic injuries, once-rare infectious diseases have returned, chronic disease goes untreated, and the health system has collapsed. In Yemen, Libya, Gaza, and Iraq violence has limited access to health care and grievously harmed the population.

According to Physicians for Human Rights last summer, at least 633 medical personnel had been killed and more than 270 illegal attacks on 202 separate medical facilities had taken place since March 2011 in Syria. Of the attacks on medical facilities, at least 51, or 19 percent, reportedly were carried out with barrel bombs. Almost all the assaults were inflicted by the regime of President Bashar al-Assad.

In the Middle East, threats against as well as arrests and intimidation of health workers extends beyond armed conflict to situations of political volatility, as evident in Bahrain, Egypt, and Turkey. In most of these cases, doctors and nurses who treat victims of violence are, by the very act of providing treatment, deemed guilty of anti-government activities. In Bahrain, almost 100 doctors and nurses were arrested and 48 originally charged with felonies for having offered medical care to wounded people in the wake of the 2011 Arab Spring uprising,

Cholera can be treated and its spread can be prevented, but diseases such as MERS pose a danger of spreading beyond the region. However, beyond the global health implications, we must consider the compounded suffering of people in the Middle East. Not only are they often in threat of violence through no fault of their own but they face preventable, treatable diseases that have gotten out of control due to conflicts.

Our panel at the hearing included health experts who helped us think through the health challenges our government faces in considering how to provide the most effective assistance to people in the Middle East. The two keys to success are: remain vigilant and sustain commitment. The hearing last week was intended to demonstrate our vigilance and commitment to addressing this situation.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN LEUNG—28TH  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Helen Leung, of Elysian Valley, a unique neighborhood in Los Angeles, California.

Helen grew up in Elysian Valley and attended local public schools. After high school, she moved east to attend the University of Pennsylvania, where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Communications, after which she attended Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government and obtained a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Urban Planning.

With a passion for redefining the connection of social equity and community development, Helen worked at Living Cities in Washington, D.C., a national funders collaborative focused on systemic impact in low-income communities. She then served as a White House Intern in 2010, a Fellow at the Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2012, and gained extensive community-based experience working for former Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti, in policy, planning and neighborhood development. Currently she is Co-Executive Director of LA-Más, a non-profit community design organization headquartered in Elysian Valley. In this role, Ms. Leung ensures that all LA-Más projects, such as the Futuro de Frogtown and Elysian Valley Knowledge Hub projects, are grounded in community need and policy potential.

Helen's past volunteer involvement includes serving on the boards of the Elysian Valley Riverside Neighborhood Council and the Wildwood Foundation. Currently she serves on the Los Angeles Police Commission's Police Permit Review Panel, the Community Advisory Board of Genesis LA and the board of the Elysian Valley Arts Collective.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Helen Leung, for her extraordinary service to the community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF LOUISIANA STATE REP. RONNIE  
EDWARDS

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Louisiana State Representative Ronnie Edwards, a dear friend and model public servant. Rep. Edwards passed away on February 24, 2016, at the age of 63 after a two-year battle with pancreatic cancer.

Rep. Edwards was born in Woodville, Mississippi on July 20, 1952, and was a long time

resident of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. An administrator with over 40 years of experience in government and industry, Rep. Edwards formed lasting relationships and partnerships with education institutions, nonprofits, faith leaders and elected officials to effect change through her community development work.

In 1992, Rep. Edwards founded the Urban Restoration Enhancement Corporation (UREC) as a trusted and credible community development organization. With the assistance of many community leaders and supporters, her tenacity resulted in: safe and affordable housing for families; the establishment of Louisiana's first home for grandparents raising grandchildren in Baton Rouge; innovative youth enrichment initiatives; small business training and development; and the development of the Security Dads initiative to combat violence.

Rep. Edwards was elected to represent District 5 on the Baton Rouge Metro Council in 2009. She served on the Council for six years before being elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in November 2015.

In December 2013, Rep. Edwards was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. But for the first year and a half, she did not stop her work at the local level and maintained perfect attendance at Metro Council meetings, where she was a strong advocate of health living initiatives, cancer screenings and affordable housing. Rep. Edwards' diagnosis and experience in the health care system was motivation for her to run for State Representative because she wanted to be an advocate for ways to bring health care access to more citizens.

Ronnie was a talented and compassionate legislator, but more importantly she was a friend. The news of her passing is not only devastating to me, it is a tremendous loss for the entire state. She committed her life to serving her constituents and fighting for those who needed it the most.

As we mourn her loss we must honor her legacy by renewing our commitment to the work she fought so hard to complete. Louisiana has lost a lion, but her memory will live on forever.

Mr. Speaker, my deepest condolences are with her family as they go through this difficult time.

HONORING WORLD WAR II VET-  
ERAN & CIVIL ENGINEER HELIAS  
DOUNDOULAKIS

**HON. KATHLEEN M. RICE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life of Helias Doundoulakis, who passed away on February 29th, 2016 at the age of 92. A long-time resident of New York's fourth congressional district, Mr. Doundoulakis was a decorated veteran of World War II and an accomplished civil engineer who played a critical role in developing some of the greatest aeronautic achievements of the 20th century.

Born in Ohio and raised in Crete, Greece, Mr. Doundoulakis was still in high school when Axis forces invaded Crete in 1941. Nevertheless, he joined the Cretan resistance and worked alongside the British Special Oper-

ations Executive, collecting vital intelligence for allied forces and sabotaging Axis military operations across the Mediterranean. When it became too dangerous for Mr. Doundoulakis to remain in Crete, he and his brother fled to Egypt, where they immediately rejoined the fight and enlisted in the United States Office of Strategic Services. Despite overwhelming danger, Mr. Doundoulakis' commitment to liberating Crete and defeating the Axis powers never wavered.

After the war, Doundoulakis returned to the United States and settled in New York, where as a civil engineer for Grumman Aerospace Corporation, he helped develop several groundbreaking aeronautic innovations, including the Apollo Lunar Module, the Space Shuttle and the F-14 Tomcat fighter jet. One of Mr. Doundoulakis' most notable achievements was his patent for a radio telescope, used in the design for the largest of its kind at the NAIC Arecibo Observatory, in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, which is the world's largest single-aperture telescope and has played a crucial role in atmospheric and astronomical research. Mr. Doundoulakis served his country both as a courageous soldier and a bold innovator who helped propel the United States to the forefront of aviation and space exploration.

While those who knew Mr. Doundoulakis mourn his passing, we also celebrate his incredible life and all that he achieved. It was truly an honor to serve as Mr. Doundoulakis' representative in Congress and I extend my sincere condolences to his wife Rita Doundoulakis, his children, grandchildren and to all those whose lives he touched.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY ERICKSON—  
28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Kelly Erickson, of Echo Park, a unique neighborhood in Los Angeles, California.

Born in Oakhurst, California, Kelly attended Oakhurst Elementary School, Oak Creek Intermediate School and Yosemite High School. She moved to Southern California to attend Pitzer College, where she obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Political Journalism. Because of the college's environment of social and community activism, Kelly credits Pitzer College for guiding her into volunteering and community activism.

Ms. Erickson's involvement in Echo Park community organizations is extensive. She served on the Outreach Committee of the Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council, is Chair of the Echo Park Community Parade Committee, a member of the Echo Park Chamber of Commerce, and is active in the Echo Park Improvement Association, where she serves as Secretary and on the Neighborhood Issues Committee. In addition,

Kelly has worked on several neighborhood projects, including promoting local small businesses and her most current project, which is the documentation and preservation of Echo Park area murals.

Several years ago, Kelly founded the website: Echo Park Now, to help increase community awareness and involvement. When she is not writing or attending community meetings, she is running her graphic design and marketing services business, Craft Media Los Angeles. Kelly frequently donates her business' services to assist in community efforts.

Kelly is married to Bennett Erickson and they have two rescue dogs, Aja and Josie.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Kelly Erickson, for her extraordinary service to the community.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE GENDER DIVERSITY IN CORPORATE LEADERSHIP ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Gender Diversity in Corporate Leadership Act, common-sense legislation to address the striking gender disparity in America's corporate boardrooms.

A recent GAO report found that women hold only about 16 percent of board seats at S&P 1500 companies, up from 8 percent in 1997. While this is progress, even if women comprise half of new board members from this point forward, the report estimated it would take over 40 years to reach gender parity.

My legislation would take a few simple steps to collect data to better define this disparity and encourage businesses to take steps to diversify their boards. By requiring publicly-traded companies to report the gender composition of their boards, we will make it easy for investors and other organizations to evaluate board diversity.

The evidence is clear, companies with diverse leadership are better-positioned to succeed. Indeed, a recent report published by MSCI found that companies with "strong female leadership" (either above-average board representation or a female CEO and at least one female board member) generated a higher return on equity and valuation than companies lacking female leadership. That finding follows a 2014 Credit Suisse report that found companies with at least one woman on their board outperformed other companies by 5 percent from the start of 2012–June 2014.

I am proud that the Gender Diversity in Corporate Leadership Act is supported by a strong coalition of business leaders like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as well as leading voices to promote workplace diversity like Catalyst and the National Women's Law Center. I want to commend these groups for their work on these issues, as well as my original co-sponsors Reps. DON BEYER and DEBBIE DINGELL for their partnership on this important legislation.

#### HONORING SOUTHEAST FLORIDA HEAD HUGGERS

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Southeast Chapter of Florida Head Huggers, also known as "Caps and Wraps," as they celebrate their five-year anniversary.

This wonderful group of ladies meets every Thursday to knit and crochet caps, wraps and blankets, which are donated to adult and pediatric cancer patients who are undergoing treatment.

Since the group began in January 2011, Caps and Wraps has donated more than 20,000 "handmade hugs" to local hospitals and oncology offices to ensure that cancer patients are provided with warmth and comfort.

As a cancer survivor, I offer my heartfelt appreciation to Chapter founder, Aline Zucker, for her kindness and generosity.

I commend the Southeast Chapter of Florida Head Huggers for their commitment and compassion to the cancer community.

#### TRIBUTE TO DOLORES DIAZ-CAREY—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Dolores Diaz-Carey, of Pasadena, California.

Born in Los Angeles, Dolores attended Sacred Heart Elementary School and Sacred Heart High School. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish Literature from Holy Names University and her Master's Degree in Education from the University of Southern California. In addition, Dolores obtained a Counseling Credential from the University of California, Los Angeles and an Administrative Credential from California State University, Los Angeles.

A consummate educator, Ms. Diaz-Carey's long career in education began as a teacher at the elementary and junior high school levels in Northern California, after which she moved to Mexico City to teach. In 1969, Dolores joined the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) where she worked for 35 years. In LAUSD's Division of Adult and Career Education, she worked in many capacities, including as an ESL (English as a Second Language) instructor, teacher advisor, counselor, assistant principal, and principal. From 1973 to 1975, Ms. Diaz-Carey was Executive Producer of the first bilingual ESL television series for adults, "POCHTLAN", for which she was awarded an Emmy from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. From 1987 to 1998, she was Principal of Garfield Community Adult

School and while there, founded a family literacy program for adults and their children. In 1998, Dolores became Director of the Adult Instructional Services Unit where she was responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of all the curricula for adults, including ESL, high school diploma, basic education, parenting, and nursing programs—during this time, she was also Program Director of the Community Based English Tutoring program.

Dolores is a longtime member of the East Los Angeles Rotary Club, where she serves as the Rotarian advisor for a youth club, and is the incoming club president. In 2011, she received the Rotarian Foundation District Service Award. Dolores is a member and past President of the San Rafael Library Associates, a support group for the San Rafael Library in Pasadena, and is a generous supporter of the arts, including the Los Angeles Music and Art School, and the Youth Orchestra Los Angeles.

A forty-year resident of Pasadena, Dolores enjoys traveling, daily walks with her dog, Dodger, long-distance cycling, and attending Los Angeles Philharmonic concerts and events at the Hollywood Bowl.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Dolores Diaz-Carey, for her extraordinary service to the community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state that on March 3, 2016, I was detained in my district and missed roll call votes. Had I been present I would have voted:

1. NO—Roll Call No. 106—Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4557.

2. NO—Roll Call No. 107—H. Res. 635—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4557—Blocking Regulatory Interference from Closing Kilns (BRICK) Act of 2016.

3. AYE—Roll Call No. 108—S. 1826—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 99 West 2nd Street in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, as the Lieutenant Colonel James "Maggie" Megellas Post Office.

4. NO—Roll Call No. 109—H.R. 4557—Blocking Regulatory Interference from Closing Kilns (BRICK) Act of 2016.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF CHARLES EDWARD DUBOIS

**HON. KAREN BASS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the 90th birthday of my friend and mentor, Charles Edward DuBois.

Charlie was born to Vernon and Edna DuBois in New Jersey on February 26, 1926 and raised with his three siblings during the Depression by his loving parents.

Young Charlie showed a fighting spirit from early in life, and learned his values at his father's knee, including when W.E.B. DuBois (no relation) would stop by his home to argue and discuss issues of race and justice. Now four generations of the DuBois family have dedicated themselves to lifting up working people.

Charlie enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1944 and served honorably in the Pacific theatre. After returning from the war, Charlie often provided security services for those speaking out and demanding social change, including Paul Robeson, Hortensia Bussi and Angela Davis.

Charlie moved to Los Angeles in the 1960s, where he met and married his wife, Viki. They both worked at Kaiser Permanente for years. He and Viki were blessed with two sons.

Charlie and Viki were organizers and leaders of Black Women United (which evolved into Black Women and Men during the 1970s). Through these organizations, they fought (among other things) for criminal justice reform. These groups also worked to support those who were incarcerated, helping their families during the time they were in prison, and working to aid their adjustment when they returned to the community.

Charlie often mentored youth in the justice movement, and he was instrumental in my own decision to pursue medical training as an effective way of seeking change and providing service to others.

I would like to salute Charles Edward DuBois for his longstanding commitment to serving others and for remaining true to his principles throughout his long life.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CHERYL REVKIN—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2016

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Dr. Cheryl Revkin, of Silver Lake, a unique neighborhood in Los Angeles, California.

Cheryl Revkin was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. After obtaining her Bachelor's Degree at the University of Wisconsin, she attended the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic where she received both her Bachelor's of Science and Doctor of Chiropractic degrees. A compassionate chiropractor, Dr. Revkin made a commitment to donate one-third of her practice to individuals with no chiropractic insurance, such as the six patients a week that she treated who were referred to her from the Hollywood Sunset Free Clinic, patients with HIV, and many children. A community activist while running her practice in Silver Lake, after thirty-three years, Cheryl retired and devoted all of her time and talents to helping her community.

Dr. Revkin's involvement in Silver Lake community organizations is extensive. She was the Founder and President of the Silver Lake Chamber of Commerce, where she was

active for more than two decades, and now acts as a consultant to the chamber. Currently, Cheryl serves as Co-Chair of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council History Collective Committee, a position she has held for over a decade, is a board member of the Friends of the Silver Lake Library, and volunteers with CollegePath LA at John Marshall High School. In addition, Dr. Revkin is on the Los Angeles City Disability Access Review Board Commission, helps out in the Los Angeles Neighborhood Justice Program and the Center for the Study of Political Graphics, and serves on the Board of Automata, a puppet theatre in Los Angeles. For her efforts, Cheryl received the Pioneer Woman of the Year Award from then-Los Angeles City Councilman Eric Garcetti.

Dr. Revkin has one daughter, Casey Revkin and one grandchild, Emil Ryan, who also live in Silver Lake.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Dr. Cheryl Revkin, for her extraordinary service to the community.

CHRONICLING THE PRESIDENT'S UNCONSTITUTIONAL ACTIONS

**HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2016

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, when our Founders wrote the Constitution, they had the wisdom to create a system of checks and balances among the three branches of government.

They knew this would limit power, protect against abuses, and promote liberty under the Constitution.

The President has the right to nominate justices to the Supreme Court, but the Senate has the co-equal right to consent to such an appointment.

One branch has a power; another has a check.

Today, with a vacancy on the Supreme Court, we have a chance to see this system of checks and balances in action.

In deciding to exercise its consent to an appointment to the Supreme Court, the Senate should assess whether the President has been acting consistent with the Constitution.

The chart below highlights just a few of the President's unconstitutional actions since he was reelected in 2012.

July 2013: President disregards employer mandate.

February 2014: President disregards employer mandate again.

June 2014: SCOTUS rules 9-0 President violated Appointments Clause.

November 2014: President announces executive amnesty.

May 2015: Court of Appeals stops executive amnesty.

February 2016: Stops Clean Power Plan.

These actions have been frequent, repeated, and grave.

These actions have poisoned the well of deliberation for this appointment.

In that light, why shouldn't the Senate withhold consent? It is a game the President chose to play, and now he must face the consequence.

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, March 8, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 9

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine cooperative federalism, focusing on state perspectives on Environmental Protection Agency regulatory actions and the role of states as co-regulators.

SD-406

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Indian Health Service.

SD-124

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of General Joseph L. Votel, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United States Central Command, and Lieutenant General Raymond A. Thomas III, USA, to be general and Commander, United States Special Operations Command.

SD-G50

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 1878, to extend the pediatric priority review voucher program, S. 1077, to provide for expedited development of and priority review for breakthrough devices, S. 1101, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the regulation of patient records and certain decision support software, S. 2055, to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to national health security, S. 1767, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to combination products, S. 1597, to enhance patient engagement in the medical product development process, S. 2512, to expand the tropical disease product priority review voucher program to encourage treatments for Zika virus, and the nomination of John

- B. King, of New York, to be Secretary of Education. SD-106
- 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 2017 for the Defense Health Program. SD-192
- 2 p.m.  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Agriculture. SD-124
- Committee on the Judiciary  
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the enforcement of the antitrust laws. SD-226
- 2:15 p.m.  
Committee on Indian Affairs  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for Indian Country. SD-628
- 2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Energy. SD-138
- Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities  
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense security cooperation and assistance programs and authorities. SR-232A
- Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces  
To hold closed hearings to examine military space threats and programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program. SVC-217
- MARCH 10
- 9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations  
To hold hearings to examine the Affordable Care Act health insurance Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan program. SD-342
- 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 2017 for the Department of Education. SD-138
- Committee on Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine United States Strategic Command, United States Northern Command, and United States Southern Command programs and budget in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session following the open session in SVC-217. SD-G50
- Committee on Finance  
To hold hearings to examine HealthCare.gov, focusing on a review of operations and enrollment. SD-215
- Committee on Foreign Relations  
Business meeting to consider S. 1252, to authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote inclusive, sustainable, agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, S. Res. 375, raising awareness of modern slavery, S. Res. 368, supporting efforts by the Government of Colombia to pursue peace and the end of the country's enduring internal armed conflict and recognizing United States support for Colombia at the 15th anniversary of Plan Colombia, S. Res. 378, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the courageous work and life of Russian opposition leader Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov and renewing the call for a full and transparent investigation into the tragic murder of Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov in Moscow on February 27, 2015, an original resolution that expresses profound concern over the prosecution and conviction of former President Mohamed Nasheed without due process and urges the Government of the Maldives to take all necessary steps to redress this injustice, release all political prisoners, and to ensure due process and freedom from political prosecution for all the people of the Maldives, and the nominations of Catherine Ann Novelli, of Virginia, to be Alternate Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and Karen Brevard Stewart, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Amos J. Hochstein, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Energy Resources), Robert Annan Riley III, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, Matthew John Matthews, of Oregon, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Senior Official for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum, and routine lists in the Foreign Service, all of the Department of State; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Stephen Michael Schwartz, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Somalia, Kelly Keiderling-Franz, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, Elizabeth Holzhall Richard, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Lebanese Republic, and Christine Ann Elder, of Kentucky, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia, all of the Department of State, Mark Sobel, of Virginia, to be Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of two years, and R. David Harden, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development. SD-419
- Committee on the Judiciary  
Business meeting to consider S. 247, to amend section 349 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to deem specified activities in support of terrorism as renunciation of United States nationality, S. 2390, to provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, S. 2613, to reauthorize certain programs established by the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, S. 2614, to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism, and the nominations of Elizabeth J. Drake, of Maryland, Jennifer Choe Groves, of Virginia, and Gary Stephen Katzmann, of Massachusetts, each to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, and Clare E. Connors, to be United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii. SD-226
- Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
To hold hearings to examine the commercial applications of unmanned aircraft for small businesses. SR-428A
- 10:30 a.m.  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. SD-192
- 11 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 2017 and fiscal year 2018 for the Department of Veterans Affairs. SD-124
- 2 p.m.  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219
- 2:30 p.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 2017 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. SD-192
- MARCH 15
- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support  
To hold hearings to examine the current state of readiness of United States forces in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program. SR-222
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the security of United States visa programs. SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine late-term abortion.

SD-226

MARCH 16

10 a.m.  
Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the 2016 Water Resources Development Act, focusing on policies and projects.

SD-406

Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple Veterans Service Organizations.

SD-G50

2:15 p.m.  
Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Government Accountability Office report on telecommunications, focusing on the need for additional coordination and performance measurement for

high-speed Internet access programs on tribal lands.

SD-628

MARCH 17

9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense budget posture in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50