House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. Cheney).

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

THE PAGO PAGO DECLARATION

The Speaker pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. Radewagen) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation and that of the Samoan people for the April 23 visit of Vice President Mike Pence, who was accompanied by the Second Lady and their daughters to my home district, the United States Territory of American Samoa, upon the conclusion of his historic 10-day visit to strategic Asian and Pacific partners. Upon his arrival to Pago Pago, the Vice President remarked that he was glad to be back on American soil.

This historic visit to American Samoa marks only the third time a sitting Vice President has graced our shores and follows in the footsteps of past visits from Vice Presidents Quayle in 1989 and Clinton in 2000. Previous visits to our beautiful islands from White House dignitaries include First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt in 1943, President Lyndon Johnson in 1966, and President Jimmy Carter’s son, Jeffrey, who represented his father at the inauguration of our first elected Governor in 1977, who happens to be my father, Peter Tali Coleman.

Madam Speaker, pursuant to legislation I introduced in February, which was enacted by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on May 31, the Vice President came to American Samoa at my humble request to dedicate our veterans clinic to the memory of the late former representative of American Samoa, Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, with whom the Vice President served the entirety of his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2003 to 2013.

While in American Samoa, the Vice President also reviewed the troops comprised of Reserve companies who are part of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry of the U.S. Army based in Hawaii. Headquartered at Ft. Shafter in Honolulu, the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry is the only infantry unit in the entire United States Army Reserve. Samoan soldiers who are part of the battalion have fought and served bravely in conflicts from Desert Storm to Afghanistan and Iraq, and others, since the companies were relocated to American Samoa in 1980.

Madam Speaker, American Samoa takes particular pride that Vice President Pence was able to celebrate with us the 109th anniversary of the establishment of the United States Army Reserves, which just happened to line up perfectly with his visit.

While the Vice President’s journey was well covered by international and domestic media, most outlets outside of the Pacific failed to report a significant statement he made, which I have called the Pago Pago Declaration. This important statement made on our soil was well noted and well received in the Pacific Islands.

Specifically, the Vice President spoke of the challenges the U.S. faces in Asia and the Pacific and confirmed to the audience assembled that, as quoted by Radio New Zealand International and broadcast region-wide: “We’re here to stay, we’re here for peace, we’re here for the prosperity of all of our people, and we are proud the American flag flies in American Samoa.”

Madam Speaker. I include in the RECORD this Radio New Zealand International story.

[From Radio New Zealand, Apr. 25, 2017]

AMERICAN SAMOAIS TOLD US IS COMMITTED TO REGIONAL PEACE

The United States Vice President has told American Samoans that his country is committed to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mike Pence made a brief stopover in the US territory yesterday where he was greeted by Governor Lobo Mataiali Moi’i Moi’i, his wife, the Lieutenant-Governor Lemanu Peleti Mauga, Chief Justice Michael Kruse, House Speaker Savali Talavou Aie’a and congresswoman Aumua Amata Radewagen.

Mr. Pence apologised to traditional leaders who weren’t able to conduct a traditional ava ceremony because of security restrictions.

He said it was an important time for the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr Pence said he was in the territory on behalf of President Donald Trump to symbolise the US commitment to the area.

“We’re here to stay, we’re here for peace, we’re here for the prosperity of all of our people and we are proud the American flag flies in American Samoa,” he said.

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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

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Mrs. RADEWAGEN. The People’s Republic of China and other external powers are gaining visibility and influence in the region, including the neighboring Independent State of Samoa. Due to the new influence of foreign interests in the region, members of American Samoa’s territorial legislature, the Fono, just days prior to the Vice President’s arrival, expressed to me, during my appearance before a special joint session, their concern about the rise of foreign influences in the region. It is certain the Pago Pago Declaration will help to allay their concerns and will be welcome in capitals across the Pacific from Port Moresby to Papeete, Tahiti.

Moreover, Madam Speaker, I anticipate that the Pago Pago Declaration will be a component of the evolving Trump doctrine that is under development by the administration, which I expect will be fully articulated when the U.S. participates in the Port Moresby APEC summit in November of next year.

Madam Speaker, we, in American Samoa, recognize the strategic importance of our location in the center of the Pacific Ocean and are proud of the contributions we make to our Nation’s security.

As always, we stand ready to do our part to advance the spirit of the Vice President’s Pago Pago Declaration, which I expect will have a long lasting and positive effect on the region.

I want to, once again, thank the Vice President and the administration for their attention to the Pacific territories, a region that too often goes unnoticed in Washington.

McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, one of America’s signature child nutrition and food security programs.

Established by Congress in the 2002 farm bill, over the past 15 years, it has provided life-saving meals in school settings to 14 million of the world’s most vulnerable children.

Administered by the Department of Agriculture, this bipartisan-supported program provides U.S. and international organizations with U.S. commodities, grants, and technical assistance to strengthen child nutrition and education.

It receives a modest $201 million each year. Regrettably, the President’s FY 2018 budget would cruelly eliminate the entire program.

McGovern-Dole is named after two Senators who worked in a bipartisan way during their long tenures in the Senate to end hunger, especially among children in the United States and around the world. They continued their work together after leaving the Senate. They are models for what can be accomplished when Members of Congress actually put petty partisanship aside and make the welfare of children and families a top priority. And even though George McGovern is no longer with us, Bob Dole continues to champion this cause.

On March 20, in a statement to The Washington Post, ‘‘Eliminating the McGovern-Dole program would have a disastrous effect on the planet’s most vulnerable children. Without a reliable source of nutrition, these children face a lifetime of stunted physical and mental development and unrealised opportunity. This global school meals program remains one of the proudest achievements of my lifetime. It embodies the very best of America’s values. Saving this program means saving lives. It’s as simple as that.’’

Madam Speaker, working through partners like the U.N. World Food Programme, Catholic Relief Services, World Vision, Save the Children, Counterpart International, and many more, McGovern-Dole reduced the incidence of hunger among school-aged children. It has increased school enrollments and attendance. It has increased the support of families and communities for education, especially for girls. It is a proven success.

Instead of eliminating it, we should be strengthening and expanding it. Now, I have had the privilege of visiting some of these programs around the world. In Colomb ia, I visited a program in Soacha, on the outskirts of Bogota. On barren hillsides, surrounded by shanties housing thousands of internally displaced families, children were receiving a school breakfast and lunch. Mothers and grandmothers were training the children on how to cook and serve the meal.

One mother came up to me and said: ‘‘Please thank the American people when you go back home. I couldn’t feed my children. I couldn’t send them to school. I was afraid my son was going to join the paramilitaries or guerrillas just to get food. Now my son is getting fed and he is staying in school. Please tell the American people thank you.’’

In Nairobi, Kenya, in the largest slum in the world, I went to a McGovern-Dole breakfast and lunch program. The school principal showed me how they store and prepare U.S. commodities that feed her students and how all the students know that this program is from the American people. I ate porridge made from yellow peas grown by American farmers. The kids dug into this food like it was manna from Heaven. One little boy would take a bite and then scoop a small amount out of his bowl and put it in his pockets. He was taking food home to his younger siblings who don’t get anything to eat.

Outside of Nairobi in Maasai country is a school for girls where McGovern-Dole provides a hot lunch. I helped cook and serve the meal of U.S. bulgur wheat and locally grown vegetables. One student told me how grateful she was to be able to go to school every day and eat every day. She grew up in a village over 100 miles away. When she was 12, her father told her that she had to marry a much older man. She refused. Her father ordered her to go to her husband’s house and get his machete and bring it back to him. She knew that he was going to kill her.

She ran away, walking alone for days, because she had heard of this school. And when I met her, she was 15, healthy, and well fed, and at the top of her class. I knew I was talking to someone who will some day be a leader in her country. In the very best way, she will never forget us.

And when we take food away from children, families, and schools, those communities will never forget us either. They won’t forget that we took away their children’s future. I wouldn’t forget it if it were my child. Would you?

Madam Speaker, there are many ways to advance U.S. national security and economic interests abroad. Education and child nutrition are very much at the top of the list. So I urge my colleagues to visit McGovern-Dole programs when they travel abroad and to support continued funding of the program in FY 2018. It is yet another way that we can all work together to end hunger now.

ATTEMPT TO REPEAL AND REPLACE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, this morning, the American public woke up to news stories that the Trump White House and Republican leadership in Congress is going to again this week make another attempt to try and repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

Republican Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY gave a speech in Texas a few days ago on Saturday where he promised that this is the week that the Republicans will repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

For those of us who were in the Chamber here just a short time ago in March when the first attempt was made to butch er the healthcare system with the so-called American Health Care Act, what we saw was the culmination of a process that was hyperpartisan starting in January in which the committees rushed through a piece of legislation without even giving the Congressional Budget Office a chance to analyze the cost and the impact in terms of the uninsured rate in America.

And then finally, as the hour approached when a vote was scheduled to
take place, the facts caught up with the legislation. The Congressional Budget Office determined that 24 million Americans would lose their health coverage, that the Medicare trust fund would be weakened because of the raid on the trust fund by reducing a Medicare Exchange, and it would reduce the solvency of the Medicare trust fund by 4 years, a program that is revered and probably the most popular insurance program in America in which, again, collection of healthcare payers from all across the country, the American Hospital Association, the nurses, the doctors, the March of Dimes all came out universally opposing this measure.

And finally, the Quinnipiac poll showed what the American public thought of this bill. They came out with a poll that showed only 17 percent support in the American public for the Republican healthcare bill. Again, the Quinnipiac poll comes from my State, the State of Connecticut, and was very supportive and friendly in terms of its polling data in terms of the Trump campaign last year, so it is certainly not a partisan poll.

So why are we revisiting a measure which was so universally denounced and despised? Well, there has been a new amendment that has been offered in an attempt, again, within the confines of the Republican majority, to try and win votes to pass this bill this week.

Again, they have a majority with roughly 240 seats. They need only 216, and that is really what has been the focus of the majority leader in terms of trying to line up a vote this week.

The amendment, the so-called MacArthur amendment, again, revisits some of the issues, which, again, some of the more conservative members of the Freedom Caucus were complaining about, and what it proposes to do is basically give States the ability to wipe out essential health benefits—in other words, the basic patient protections that were built into the health insurance law 8 years ago.

It does nothing in terms of trying to ameliorate the impact of the Medicaid cuts, which is the program for low-income and working Americans, which the ACA expanded and has done great work in terms of reducing the ranks of the uninsured. That is the measure which we now have before us this week.

Well, once again, the stakeholders who have to live with this have weighed in with their thoughts. This is what the American Hospital Association said:

“The amendment proposed this week would dramatically worsen the bill.”

Again, it is a bill that was so unpopular, poorly drafted, and not ready for prime time that the Speaker pulled it from the floor on March 24.

The American Hospital Association, which is the largest trade association for hospitals in America—they represent thousands of hospitals—have said that, in fact, this makes it even worse.

By weakening the essential health benefits—and I come from Connecticut. We know a little bit about insurance in that State. What we know is, if insurance companies redesign healthcare plans, the essential health benefits will be the first to go. The ones that will be the first to go will be maternity care, behavioral health, and emergency coverage because those are the most expensive items that are included within the health insurance plan. I would say, well, that is true. On the other hand, those are the essential benefits that families need.

Look at what has happened since the Affordable Care Act passed in 2007 to infant mortality, for example: because of the Medicaid coverage, 57 percent of the live births in America are now women—and particularly young women—who get the benefit of Medicaid coverage. So they get prenatal care. They get the help that they need to make sure that a healthy delivery occurs. That is why infant mortality rates have been coming down in this country since the Affordable Care Act passed.

To allow States to eliminate or give insurance companies the ability to eliminate maternity care, again, is just going exactly in the opposite direction. A goal all Americans support is to reduce infant mortality and to promote healthy live births.

The American Hospital Association was joined by the American Medical Association, which is the largest trade group which represents physicians all across the country, and came out against the bill.

America should listen. The people in Congress should listen. We should not take up this bill. It is time for a true bipartisan process to improve America’s healthcare bill.

Let’s not vote on this this week. Let’s listen to the American people.

RECESS
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o’clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

AFTER RECESS
The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Wenstrup of Texas) at 2 p.m.

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

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

We ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all to whom the authority of government is given. Help them to meet their responsibilities during these days, to attend to the immediate needs and concerns of the moment, enlightened by Your eternal spirit.

We thank You for Your gifts of patience and perseverance that have led to agreements on the funding of government. It is difficult work calling for true leadership. Continue to bless those Members who continue to work toward solutions that redound to the benefit of our country.

Please send Your spirit of peace upon those areas of our world where conflicts continue and threaten to break out. May all Your children learn to live in peace.

And may all that is done within the people’s House 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. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. Wilson) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the House in 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.

APPRECIATING CAPTAIN TAYLOR FORCE
(Mr. Wilson of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Captain Taylor Force of South Carolina was a graduate of West Point, a veteran who had served in Afghanistan and Iraq, and he was an MBA candidate at Vanderbilt University when he was, at random, stabbed to death by a Palestinian terrorist in March of 2016 as he innocently departed from a bus as a tourist in Israel. He was only 28 years old.

His merciless murder at the hands of Palestinian terrorists is even more gruesome because of the Palestinian Authority program of paying out hundreds of millions of dollars to terrorists and their families in support of mass murder.

I am grateful to support the Taylor Force Act, legislation that restricts all aid from the Palestinian Authority to the Secretary of Defense confirms they do not provide financial rewards for terrorists in their murderous activities. I appreciate the leadership of
Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, Congressman DOUG LAMBORN, and Congressman LEE ZELDIN for introducing the Taylor Force Act.

As Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas travels to Washington to meet with President Trump on Wednesday, I am confident that President Trump will show his commitment to ending financial rewards for terrorists.

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

AMERICANS LOOK TO THE STARS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, human history is punctuated by explorations of the world around us. We are a nation of explorers. It is part of our national identity, and finding new planets and looking for evidence of life beyond our Earth fascinates most Americans.

The discovery of life elsewhere in the universe would alter our priorities for space exploration and affect how we view ourselves.

In just the last two decades, we have confirmed the existence of 3,000 exoplanets, planets outside our solar system. Probing the cosmos encourages the next generation of young students to pursue careers in astronomy, astrophysics, and astrobiology.

We must continue to look at the Stars. They offer us a glimpse of the past and hope for the future.

HONORING BRAZOSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the Brazoswood High School band was awarded one of the highest honors; the Sudler Flag of Honor by the John Philip Sousa Foundation.

The Sudler Flag of Honor is given to distinguished high school bands that have demonstrated particularly high standards of excellence in concert activity and band performance over a period of several years. There is a 7-year minimum process, with countless documents, recordings, letters of recommendation, and performances at not only the State but national levels as well.

Of the nearly 50 Sudler Flags that have been awarded since 1983, almost 30 of them have gone to Texas high school bands. The Brazoswood Buccaneer Band is the most recent addition to this prestigious group, and they are the only band to have been awarded the Sudler Flag in 2017.

My sincere congratulations to the students; the alumni; the band; Mr. Brian Casey, the band director; and the principal, Rita Pintavalle, on this outstanding achievement.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POLIQUIN) at 4 o’clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

FAIR ACCESS TO INVESTMENT RESEARCH ACT OF 2017

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 910) to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

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

Section 1. Short Title.

This Act may be cited as the ''Fair Access to Investment Research Act of 2017.''

Section 2. Safe Harbor for Investment Fund Research.

(a) Expansion of the Safe Harbor.—Not later than the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall promulgate a rule to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes, as amended.

(b) Implementation of Safe Harbor.—In implementing the safe harbor pursuant to subsection (a), the Commission shall—

(A) provide that the publication, distribution, or dissemination of a covered investment fund research report constitutes such broker’s or dealer’s initiation or reinitiation of research coverage on such covered investment fund or its securities;

(B) require the publication, distribution, or dissemination of a covered investment fund research report to be subject to the applicability of the antifraud or antimanipulation provisions of the Federal securities laws under substantially similar standards.

(c) Interim Effectiveness of Safe Harbor.—In the case of a covered investment fund, and any successor successor provisions, for purposes of the Commission’s rules and regulations implementing the Federal securities laws and the rules of any self-regulatory organization.

SEC. 3. SAFE HARBOR FOR INVESTMENT FUND RESEARCH.

(a) Expansion of the Safe Harbor.—Not later than the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall promulgate a rule to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes, as amended.

(b) Implementation of Safe Harbor.—In implementing the safe harbor pursuant to subsection (a), the Commission shall—

(A) provide that the publication, distribution, or dissemination of a covered investment fund research report constitutes such broker’s or dealer’s initiation or reinitiation of research coverage on such covered investment fund or its securities;

(B) require the publication, distribution, or dissemination of a covered investment fund research report to be subject to the applicability of the antifraud or antimanipulation provisions of the Federal securities laws under substantially similar standards.

(c) Rules of Construction.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed as in any way limiting—

(1) the applicability of the antifraud or antimanipulation provisions of the Federal securities laws under substantially similar standards.

(d) Effective Date.—This Act shall take effect on the date of its enactment.
In general.—From and after the 270-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, if the Commission has not adopted revisions to section 230.139 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, as required by subsection (a), and until such time as the Commission has done so, a broker or dealer distributing or publishing a covered investment fund research report after such date shall be deemed to satisfy the conditions of subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2) of section 230.139 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, and the broker or dealer's publication of such report shall be deemed to satisfy the conditions of subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2) of section 230.139 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, if the covered investment fund that is the subject of such report satisfies the reporting history requirement and satisfies the Form S–3 eligibility and minimum float provisions of such subsections for purposes of the Commission's rules and regulations under the Federal securities laws and the rules of any self-regulatory organization, as if revised and implemented in accordance with subsections (a) and (b).

(2) STATUS OF COVERED INVESTMENT FUND.—After such period and until the Commission has adopted revisions to section 230.139 and FINRA has revised rule 2210, for purposes of subsection (a)(2)(B), any covered investment fund shall be deemed to be a security that is listed on a national securities exchange and that is not subject to section 24(b) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–24(b)).

(3) COVERED INVESTMENT FUNDS COMMUNICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), communications that concern only covered investment funds that fall within the scope of section 24(b) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–24(b)) shall not be required to be filed with FINRA.

(B) EXCEPTION.—FINRA may require the filing of communications with the public if the purpose of the communications is to provide research and analysis of covered investment funds.

(4) The term ''research report'' has the meaning given to that term under section 3(a)(26) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(26)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rules, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. Hill) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Foster) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. Hill. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Today I rise in support of H.R. 910, the Fair Access to Investment Research Act, which I have had the pleasure of working on with my friend from Illinois (Mr. Foster) in this Congress and now-Governor Carney in the last Congress.

Mr. Foster, I had the pleasure to speak with Governor Carney this weekend and tell him of our great collaboration in this Congress, and he sends his warmest regards for the process.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, is a commonsense, bipartisan, bicameral effort to increase access and information on exchange-traded funds, or ETFs, an important and rapidly growing investment vehicle in the United States and around the world.

Before coming to Congress, I worked in the banking and investment industry for nearly three decades, and I have witnessed firsthand the explosive growth in the ETF industry. Since I started my latest firm in the late 1990s, I have seen the exchange-traded fund assets grow from $42 billion in 1993 with about $100 billion in total assets to today’s 2,000 funds with about $2.4 trillion in investment assets.

However, despite this rapid growth in the popularity of the ETF market and their increasing importance to retail investors, most broker-dealers do not publish research on ETFs due to anomalies in our securities laws and regulations.

The SEC has implemented safe harbors for research in support of various asset classes, including listed stocks, corporate debt, and closed-ended funds, and Congress has provided explicit safe harbors for research related to the offerings of emerging growth company securities. However, despite their similarities to those asset classes, ETFs do not benefit from similar safe harbors.

An ETF safe harbor is also not a novel concept to the Commission, and there is bipartisan consensus that this is something that the SEC should have done years ago. Not providing feedback on this bill for the past 3 years, the SEC, itself, has looked at granting a safe harbor for ETF research on multiple occasions but never quite got around to it.

The Fair Access to Investment Research Act simply directs the SEC to provide a safe harbor for research reports that cover ETFs so that these reports are not provided in a manner that interferes with the Federal securities laws. Because ETFs are continuously brought to the market, a safe harbor is necessary for broker-dealers to publish this research.

It also holds the SEC accountable to Congress by providing in a safe harbor if the SEC does not act within a 270-day period, which would be effective until the Commission finalizes its rules in this area.

Providing this safe harbor will increase access to investment information for consumers and improve the efficiency of our capital markets. Given the importance of ETFs to the market and to the 6 million or so U.S. households that hold ETFs, steps to facilitate research and allow investors access to this useful information are long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, we want more information for our consumers about how their investments work, how an ETF fits into their investment portfolio, how it meets their investment horizon and their goals, and what the transaction costs are. What are the unique strategies around that ETF? Does it, in fact, use leverage or not? All these kinds of details will help our consumers know more about these products.

As our Capital Markets Subcommittee ranking member, Mrs. Maloney, stated so eloquently at our markup earlier this year: It makes sense to get more research out there on ETFs. After all, if you are concerned with the growth of ETFs, then the last thing you want is less research.

True it is.

This bill in no way undermines or eliminates any existing protections in the Federal securities laws or the SEC’s ability to oversee the registration and sale of ETF securities explicitly, containing a rule of construction that the applicability of the antifraud and ant曼ipulation provisions of the Federal securities laws are in no way limited by this legislation.

This safe harbor would also only apply to bona fide research and in no way limits FINRA, the Federal securities regulators, and the SEC’s ability to regulate sales and marketing literature that is used for ETFs.

I would like to thank, again, my colleagues, Mr. Foster and Governor Carney, Senators Heller and Peters for their work in the United States Senate, my chairman, the ranking member, and Mrs. Maloney and the staff on both sides of the aisle for their hard work on this pro-consumer, commonsense proposal to make more information available to America’s investing households.

In March, H.R. 910 passed the House Financial Services Committee by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 56-2.
This bill today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I thank my colleague from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for his years of hard bipartisan work that went into this bill. I am proud to support this bill today because I believe that it will strengthen the abilities of investors to make informed decisions. This legislation would add transparency in the financial markets that will ultimately benefit consumers.

Exchange-traded funds are valuable and popular tools for investors to get exposure to diversified risk through a single security with low costs. My wife and I use them ourselves. They are, however, like the iPhone, very simple on the outside but incredibly complicated products on the inside. They often can be thoroughly understood only by those with the background and the time to analyze the way the ETF is constructed, as well as each of the underlying securities and the sectors they are tied to.

Retail investors and retirement savers often do not have this time and often do not have the expertise in the markets. High-quality research can help them make informed decisions about whether to invest in, equipping them to make decisions on how to diversify across different sectors and indices.

ETFs are continuously issued, so they present unique potential risks to underwriting broker-dealers under the Federal securities laws.

Generally, the Federal securities laws prohibit a broker-dealer from participating in a securities offering from publishing research 15 days before or 30 days after the issuance for very good reason. This is to prevent research that could hype the security ahead of the offering or try to puff its price afterwards.

ETF pricing, however, reflects a wide variety of data across many issuers and indices. ETFS are continuously issued, so ETF pricing, however, reflects a wide variety of data across many issuers and indices. Because they are continuously brought to market, it is necessary to provide a clarification in the law that research is permitted to be published continuously, because they are continuously traded on the exchanges. The antifraud provisions of the securities laws will still apply.

To be clear, this bill does not vitiate any rights of investors or responsibilities of broker dealers with respect to the accuracy and truthfulness of statements. Specifically, section 2(c)(1) provides that the antifraud and anti-manipulation provisions of the securities laws are not limited by anything in this bill. Moreover, this applies only to bona fide research, and FINRA can require sales materials to be posted to the public.

Section 2(c)(2) preserves the powers of the SROs to oversee all of the practices of broker-dealers, including the publication of these reports.

Lastly, the bill provides for a statutory safe harbor should the Commission not be able to promulgate a rule in the 270-day period established by the bill. This statutory safe harbor is only available to bona fide research funds that have been reported to the SEC for the last year, ensuring that it is true to the purpose of the bill to provide research to be used by investors for existing securities.

Statutory safe harbors exist elsewhere in the Federal securities laws, most notably section 4(a)(2) of the 1933 Act. A statutory private offering exemption can be perfected without relying on regulation D. In practice, though, that does not happen, and I trust that the SEC will prescribe an appropriate set of rules consistent with section 2(a) of this bill so that the regulatory safe harbor will be effective.

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Illinois for his comments and his constructive help on designing and completing the legislative process on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, an integral process of doing this bill completed was certainly by our staff, and I want to pay particular attention to Holli Helles of my personal staff, who, this day, leaves the Hill of the personal staff and moves to the Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Securities, and Investments of the House Financial Services Committee. I want to thank Holli Helles for her outstanding work on this bill and for her outstanding work on behalf of the people of the Second Congressional District of Arkansas, as well as to congratulate her on her move to the committee.

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I again thank my colleague from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) and now-Governor Carney, as well, for working on this bill over the past years. I look forward to it being signed into law.

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work done together on this bill. I don’t have any other speakers on this particular bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work done together on this bill. I don’t have any other speakers on this particular bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. Velázquez) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 1312, the Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act, which would require the Securities and Exchange Commission to respond to the recommendations from its annual forum on capital formation that is held pursuant to such Act, as amended.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1312
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act”.

SEC. 2. ANNUAL REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT-BUSINESS FORUM ON CAPITAL FORMATION.
Section 503 of the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 80c–1) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) FORUM FINDINGS.—Nothing in this subsection shall require the Commission to agree to or act upon any finding or recommendation of the forum.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. Velázquez) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 1312, the Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act, which would require the Securities and Exchange Commission to respond to the recommendations from its annual forum on small business capital formation.

Small businesses are the backbone of the U.S. economy, and, according to the SBA, have provided 55 percent of all jobs and 66 percent of all net new jobs over the past 40 years. These small
businesses are intimately familiar with their businesses and the regulatory environment, and who better to provide insights to regulators and lawmakers on how to best provide and promote capital formation and remove unnecessary impediments and burdens on small businesses.

Nearly four decades ago, in 1980, Congress recognized the importance of our small-business owners and their having a voice and sharing their recommendations with the SEC, and Congress required the SEC to conduct an annual forum to review the current status and issues surrounding small business capital formation. But while the Commission is required to conduct this forum, its obligation goes no further.

Through the SEC often praises this small business forum and the insights and recommendations from the small business community, the SEC has no obligation to respond to or act on the forum’s recommendations and findings and it is not required to conduct an annual forum to review the current status and issues surrounding small business capital formation. While the Commission is required to conduct this forum, its obligation goes no further.

The Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act changes the SEC’s obligation by requiring the Commission to respond to the recommendations made by the annual Government-Business Forum. This bill is modeled after a similar provision in the Dodd-Frank Act which requires the SEC to respond to the recommendation of the Investor Advisory Committee.

However, there are important distinctions between the recommendations of the IAC and the forum. Specifically, the IAC is required to have access to the SEC’s working papers. By contrast, the forum is open to all public and private participants. As a result, the IAC has only issued 12 recommendations since its first meeting in 2012. During the same timeframe, the forum issued 98 recommendations.

While I understand the desire to have the SEC respond to each of the forum’s recommendations, I would remind my colleagues that the SEC has the important duty to police our financial markets. Therefore, I hope my colleagues will remember these additional duties and set appropriate funding levels for the SEC to ensure agency resources are not being diverted from its crucial examination and enforcement activities.

I would like to thank Mr. POLIQUIN and Mr. VARGAS for crafting this bipartisan bill to ensure that the voice of our small business community is heard.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, again, I appreciate the gentlewoman from New York’s views and her helpful work on this legislation.

We have lost over the last 20 years some 50 percent of our public companies. When I was getting out of college, one of the great dreams in business would be that you could have a company that was successful that you could go public. Over the years, obviously that process has made it more and more difficult for our entrepreneurs to pursue their dream of a public company.

So what better way to make sure their voice about our rules, our laws, the process of being public, and the process of registering and disclosing is all made in a way that does not discourage our entrepreneurs and our small-business people from pursuing that dream of going public.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. POLIQUIN), my distinguished friend who serves on the House Financial Services Committee, and is a gentleman who is a voice for small business at every meeting of the House Financial Services Committee.

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, and I appreciate it very much. I do want to thank the Congresswoman from New York and also the Congressman JUAN VARGAS of California who stepped up as the lead cosponsor of this legislation.

As Mr. HILL mentioned a moment ago, about two-thirds of our new jobs in the last decade have been created by small business. This is the bloodstream of our economy, and certainly in Maine, Mr. Speaker, where we are a State and a district of small businesses, this is very particular to my interest.

Those of us who have seen small businesses know that one of the biggest challenges you have is how to borrow money—access to capital—because unless you have access to capital and unless you have the funds you need to grow and expand, you can’t create new opportunities and new jobs for our kids and our grandkids. So access to capital is absolutely critical when it comes to growing our economy and providing more opportunities for the next generation.

As has already been said today, the SEC holds these annual forums where small-business leaders are on the ground creating jobs and those in the public sector get together, and they review and explore new ways and better ways to change the regulations and the rules we have in this country such that access to capital is enhanced.

What better idea; what more common sense do we need than to have a bill, H.R. 1312, that I am very proud to sponsor, that requires the SEC to assess every recommendation by this forum every year—not necessarily act upon it, but take it off the shelf, assess it, and determine if action should be taken.

I want to thank all the folks who have participated in our forums over the years, both the public and the private sector, and I ask, Mr. Speaker, that all my colleagues in this House, Republicans and Democrats, please support H.R. 1312.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HURLBUTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1312, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered taken.

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

U.S. TERRITORIES INVESTOR PROTECTION ACT OF 2017

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1366) to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to terminate an exemption for companies located in U.S. territories.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1366) to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to terminate an exemption for companies located in U.S. territories.
The Clerk reads the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1366

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be called the "U.S. Territories Investor Protection Act of 2017".

SECTION 2. TERMINATION OF EXEMPTION.

(a) In General.—Section 6(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–6(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (1).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE AND SAFE HARBOR.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) SAFE HARBOR.—With respect to a company that is exempt under section 6(a)(1) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–6(a)(1)) on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, the amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) EXTENSION OF SAFE HARBOR.—The Securities and Exchange Commission, by rule and regulation upon its own motion, or by order upon application, may conditionally or unconditionally, under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–6(c)), further delay the effective date for a company described in paragraph (2) for a maximum of 3 years following the initial 3-year period. At the end of the initial 3-year period, the Commission determines that such a rule, regulation, motion, or order is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and for the protection of investors.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELAZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Today I rise in support of H.R. 1366, the U.S. Territories Investor Protection Act, and I thank my friend and colleague from New York for her exceptional efforts in designing and bringing this bill to us today.

H.R. 1366 repeals a provision in the Investment Company Act of 1940 that exempts investment companies in Puerto Rico, Guam, and other U.S. territories from provisions under the Securities and Exchange Commission, the SEC, so that they have to play by the same rules as their mainland counterparts.

When Congress first enacted the Investment Company Act in the 1940s, a number of exemption for investment companies in the noncontiguous territories made a lot of sense as it was extremely expensive and difficult for the SEC to send staff to travel to these territories and inspect the local companies. In fact, Mr. Speaker, back in the 1940s, Eastern Air Lines bragged of their 6-hour-and-10-minute service between New York and San Juan one way for $1,700 in today’s money. So, in fact, it was challenging to get to the territories.

But with all the significant advances in technology and travel, these logistical barriers no longer exist. As such, this bill repeals this archaic exemption to allow reasonable and safe harbor to allow those companies currently subject to the exemption to transition.

Similar legislation passed the House in the last Congress by voice vote, and, earlier this year, H.R. 1366 passed the House Financial Services Committee by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1366, legislation that will close a loophole in our securities laws and better protect the investors and retirees of the U.S. territories.

The Investment Company Act of 1940 governs investment companies, such as mutual funds, closed-end funds, and ETFs. Its purpose is to protect investors and provide oversight of these companies. In doing so, it regulates various transactions among affiliates, sets limits on the leverage of investment companies, and complies with the Investment Company Act.

These matters sound technical, but they provide fundamental protections to most U.S. investors. I say “most” because, due to a historical artifact, all fund companies located only to residents of U.S. territories are exempted.

The reason is, in 1940, territories like Puerto Rico were considered to be too distant from Washington, D.C. Obviously, modern air travel makes that a nonissue today, as regulators routinely travel to Hawaii and Alaska to conduct oversight. In addition, many of these financial products are now traded electronically, truly eliminating the need to visit in person.

The consequence of exemption falls squarely on the residents of U.S. territories. Investment companies can sell products to them without the important oversight, disclosure, and conflict-of-interest requirements to which mainland constituents are subject.

As a result, many investors and retirees have been subject to investment losses, some resulting from behavior that would have been prohibited if the 1940 act applied to the island’s investment companies.

To address this matter, H.R. 1366, the U.S. Territories Investor Protection Act, applies the 1940 act to currently exempt investment companies that are located, organized in, and sold to residents of these territories.

I would like to point out that this bill is similar to legislation that passed the House last Congress twice with overwhelming bipartisan support. It was clear how well it was received by the industry.

Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico.

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

I also want to thank Congressman DUFFY and Congresswoman MACAETHUR, two of my colleagues from the Puerto Rico Task Force, for cosponsoring this bill.

I also want to thank Puerto Rico’s new Member of Congress, JENNIFER GONZALEZ-COLÓN, for cosponsoring it as well. And Senators HATCH and MENENDEZ, who have put forward a companion bill in the Senate. All of this support means a great deal to me and to those investors on the island.

Finally, I want to thank Chairman HENSARLING and Ranking Member WATERS for working with me through the last 2 years in a highly productive manner. We met with stakeholders, heard their concerns, and fine-tuned the bill. I am confident we developed an approach that would apply the 1940 act in a manner that is sensitive to investors and investment companies alike.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to thank my friend from New York for her leadership and her voice on behalf of Puerto Rico and the islands in this regard, and for her long public service and particular leadership in this time of important change in Puerto Rico.

Recently, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to take an all-too-quick trip to San Juan to assess the current economic conditions on the island. It was too brief in that it was less than a day, which seems completely unfair to any visitor to the beautiful island of Puerto Rico.

I want to thank my host, our distinguished delegate from the Commonwealth, JENNIFER GONZALEZ-COLÓN for hosting me on that visit. I thank her for hosting me on this bill and her leadership on the island here in Congress. We are grateful to have her and her new Member of this body.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZALEZ-COLÓN).
Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLOÑO of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the U.S. Territories Investor Protection Act. I am a cosponsor of this bill, and I thank Representative VELAZQUEZ for introducing H.R. 1366 and the Members who have joined in sponsoring legislation in the 50 States.

The U.S. Territories Investor Protection Act will close a loophole in the current law. By passing this bill, Congress will bring to Puerto Rico’s investors the same protections enjoyed by investors living in the 50 States. Under current law, investment funds that are located and organized in the U.S. territories and sell to only residents of the territories are exempted from the Investment Company Act of 1940, which governs entities, such as mutual and exchange-traded funds.

Because of this exemption, investment companies located in the U.S. territories can sell their products to territory residents while not being subject to the oversight, disclosure, and conflict-of-interest requirements that govern investment companies located in the States. As a result, investors residing in Puerto Rico and the other territories have experienced investment outcomes of which likely would have been prohibited had the 1940 act applied to the territories.

For example, UBS operating in Puerto Rico served as an adviser to Puerto Rico’s Employees Retirement System and, in 2008, led the underwriting of a $2.9 billion bond issue for the government pension agency. UBS then placed $1.7 billion of those funds into UBS-managed mutual funds that UBS then sold exclusively to customers on the island. This investment would have been forbidden by the Investment Company Act if these funds were sold in the States. As a result, investors residing in Puerto Rico and the other territories have experienced investment outcomes of which likely would have been prohibited had the 1940 act applied to the territories.

The Puerto Rican investors holding these bonds have suffered massive loss due to UBS’s failure to properly disclose the risks of these funds. On the island, hundreds of these customers have filed arbitration claims with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and seek more than $1.1 billion in damages. UBS continues to lose these cases for failing its fiduciary responsibilities.

Today’s vote on H.R. 1366 will help end such outrageous investment abuse and gives Congress another opportunity to align the laws governing Puerto Rico and the other territories with the laws governing the 50 States. H.R. 1366 will remove the territories’ exemption and make the Investment Company Act of 1940 apply to companies that are located, organized in, and sell to residents of the territories.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 1366, the U.S. Territories Investor Protection Act.

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

Closing the U.S. territories loophole in the Investment Company Act of 1940 will give millions of investors and residents in the territories the same protections enjoyed by those on the mainland. I want to thank the chairman, the ranking member, and all the cosponsors for their hard work. I am excited about this bipartisan legislation to the floor. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McCLINTOCK). The question is on the amendment by the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 657) to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend certain protections against prohibited personal practices and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 657

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the “Follow the Rules Act”.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITED PERSONNEL ACTION BASED ON ORDERING INDIVIDUAL TO VIOLATE RULE OR REGULATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (D) of section 2820(b)(9) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting “, rule, or regulation” after “law”.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Such subparagraph is further amended by striking “for”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today in support of H.R. 657, the Follow the Rules Act, introduced by Congressman SEAN DUFFY of Wisconsin, less than 1 month ago marked the 28th anniversary of the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989. That bill was a landmark accomplishment establishing enforcement mechanisms to protect those who help identify waste, fraud, and abuse in the Federal Government.

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

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

When we are going to pass a bill on a bipartisan basis, it might be useful to acknowledge the bill has a Democratic co-sponsor. I am proud to be the lead cosponsor with Congressman DUFFY on the Follow the Rules Act—in fact, he asked me to play that role—and I rise
clearly in strong support of the legislation which will protect, critically, whistleblowers who disclose waste, fraud, and abuse.

I want to thank my colleague, Representative Duffy, for working with me in a bipartisan way on this important bill. We initially introduced the bill together in the 114th Congress, and it passed the House without opposition. Unfortunately, the Senate did not act. Hopefully, this Congress we will be able to persuade the Senate to enact this important bipartisan legislation.

This bill would clarify that, under the Whistleblower Protection Act, an employee who refuses to obey an order that would require the employee to violate a law, rule, or regulation is protected.

Congressman Duffy and I introduced the bill to address a misinterpretation of the Whistleblower Protection Act by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in the case of Rainey v. Merit Systems Protection Board in 2013 as my colleague from Kentucky suggested. In that case, a contracting officer, Dr. Timothy Rainey, was ordered by his supervisor to tell a contractor to rehire a terminated subcontractor. Dr. Rainey, in principle, refused because carrying out that order would have required him to violate the Federal Acquisition Regulation by improperly interfering with the contractor’s personnel decisions and requiring the contractor to act contrary to the terms of the contract. What reward did Dr. Rainey get for doing the right thing? He was stripped of his duties and given a negative performance rating.

The Federal circuit, God knoweth how, held that an employee who refuses to obey an order is protected only if the order would violate a law, a statute, but not if the order would violate a rule or a regulation. Talk about looking at angels on the head of a pin. The court’s ruling was contrary, clearly, to the Whistleblower Protection Act and the intent of this Congress.

In enacting the Whistleblower Protection Act, Congress clearly intended that protections granted to government employees who blow the whistle on waste, fraud, and abuse be construed broadly. We clearly had in mind not only laws, but rules and regulations as well.

Congress and the American people rely on whistleblowers to make government efficient, honest, and effective, and we in Congress want to support those people. As a member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I rely on whistleblowers to help us with our oversight and reform work. Without them, rooting out mismanagement, abuse, and corruption would be very difficult.

The underlying principle of the Whistleblower Protection Act is that employees should be protected from retaliation if they do the right thing even if it means disobeying orders from their superiors. Given the Trump administration’s attacks on the Federal workforce, it is especially important now, more than ever, for this Congress to uphold whistleblower protections for all of our public servants.

We cannot tolerate the issuance of gag orders to silence dissent, and we cannot permit the firing of agency employees who have differing political views from our own or who might object to administration actions. If the administration and my colleagues are serious about draining the swamp, we need to do all we can to ensure that Federal whistleblowers to perform their jobs free of political pressure to violate laws, rules, and regulations.

Protecting whistleblowers has been and should continue to be a bipartisan—indeed, nonpartisan—issue and something on which we can find common ground. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this important bipartisan legislation. I am proud to cosponsor it with my friend, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER).

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, those of us in this institution talk about we are a country of laws. However, over time, more and more of the statements that we have to live by are not laws. They are rules and regulations. Therefore, when the Whistleblower Protection Act was passed in 1989, I am not sure at the time whether it was intended to cover rules and regulations, but, as a practical matter, I think Federal employees will run into problems in which they are asked to disobey rules and regulations even more than statutory laws themselves.

On June 7 of last year, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit ruled in Rainey v. Merit Systems Protection Board that, while laws were covered by the Whistleblower Protection Act, rules and regulations were not, at least if you weren’t a Federal employee.

Why is it relevant that we have to make up for the problems caused by this decision? Dr. Timothy Rainey was a State Department employee who, while serving as a contracting officer in 2013, was ordered by his superior to violate the Federal Acquisition Regulation. Dr. Rainey refused and was subsequently removed from his duties.

When Dr. Rainey invoked the right-to-disobey provision of the Whistleblower Protection Act, the Merit Systems Protection Board ruled the law only protected him from violating Federal laws, but such protections don’t apply to rules or regulations. Dr. Rainey appealed the case, and the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the Protection Board ruling and, in doing so, exposed a glaring inconsistency in the application of the law.

What does this mean? Federal whistleblowers play an important role in exposing mismanagement, the rampant mismanagement at Federal agencies, and supporting the oversight work of Congress. Critical to them is the Whistleblower Protection Act which provides Federal workers with certain legal safeguards to disclose information that an employee reasonably believes evidences gross mismanagement, waste of funds, a violation of authority, or a violation of the law.

This ruling will take away the protections when they stand up to bad actors in the Federal workforce. In effect, this ruling will give supervisors in positions of authority to force Federal workers to violate the rules and regulations that Congress, through law, directs the agencies to implement.

Regardless of your opinion about certain rules, we should not leave, exposed, Federal workers who are just trying to follow the rules instead of obeying supervisors who want them to disobey the rules and regulations. The bipartisan Follow the Rules Act, which I am an original cosponsor of, will close this loophole created by the court’s ruling and ensure that Federal employees have protections for refusing to violate the rules and regulations in addition to the laws.

I ask support for this bill.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I agree with my friend from Wisconsin. I think he laid out the case very well. I think the ruling of the circuit court in many ways tells us about the perils of a very juridical view of what a statute is all about. To refuse to take into account context, history, legislative history, and congressional intent that is reflected often in the kind of debate we are having here on the floor I think is not in the spirit of trying to interpret the laws as Congress intends them. Sooner or later I think Congress is going to have to address this kind of fundamental, originalist approach to the laws that I think is nonsensical and leads to this kind of cherry-picking about what it was Congress intended to protect.

I agree with my friend from Wisconsin. I think this bill is necessary because we have to clarify the law, apparently, for the courts and protect people like Dr. Rainey.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 657, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.
400 YEARS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY COMMISSION ACT

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1242) to establish the 400 Years of African-American History Commission, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

SEC. 1. EXPANSION.

This Act may be cited as the ‘‘400 Years of African-American History Commission Act’’.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMEMORATION.—The term ‘‘commemoration’’ means the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Africans in the English colonies, at Point Comfort, Virginia, in 1619.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term ‘‘Commission’’ means the 400 Years of African-American History Commission established by section 3(a).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘‘Secretary’’ means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a commission, to be known as the ‘‘400 Years of African-American History Commission’’.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be composed of 15 members, of whom—

(A) three members shall be appointed by the Secretary after considering recommendations of governors, including the Governor of Virginia; and

(B) six members shall be appointed by the Secretary after considering recommendations of rights organizations and historical organizations;

(C) one member shall be an employee of the National Park Service having experience relative to the historical and cultural resources related to the commemoration, to be appointed by the Secretary;

(D) two members shall be appointed by the Secretary after considering the recommendations of Members of Congress;

(E) three members shall be individuals who have experience in supporting, and expertise appropriate to the commemoration, appointed by the Secretary after considering the recommendations of Members of Congress;

(F) two members shall be appointed by the Secretary after considering the recommendations of the Smithsonian Institution; and

(G) three members shall be individuals who have expertise in supporting, and expertise appropriate to the commemoration, appointed by the Secretary after considering the recommendations of Members of Congress.

(2) TIME OF APPOINTMENT.—Each appointment of an initial member of the Commission shall be made before the expiration of the 120-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) TERM; VACANCIES.—

(A) TERM.—A member of the Commission shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(B) VACANCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(ii) PARTIAL TERM.—A member appointed to fill a vacancy on the Commission shall serve for the remainder of the term for which the predecessor of the member was appointed.

(c) CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP.—If a member of the Commission was appointed to the Commission as an employee of the National Park Service, and ceases to be an employee of the National Park Service, that member shall continue to serve on the Commission for not longer than the 30-day period beginning on the date on which that member ceases to be an employee of the National Park Service.

(d) DUTIES.—The Commission shall—

(i) plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities throughout the United States—

(A) appropriate for the commemoration;

(B) to recognize and highlight the resilience and contributions of African-Americans since 1619;

(C) to acknowledge the impact that slavery and laws that enforced racial discrimination had on the United States; and

(D) to educate the public about—

(i) the arrival of Africans in the United States; and

(ii) the contributions of African-Americans to the United States;

(2) encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, economic, and other organizations throughout the United States to organize and participate in anniversaries to expand understanding and appreciation of—

(A) the significance of the arrival of African-Americans in the United States; and

(B) the contributions of African-Americans to the United States;

(3) provide technical assistance to States, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration;

(4) coordinate and facilitate for the public scholarly research, publication about, and interpretation of—

(A) the arrival of Africans in the United States; and

(B) the contributions of African-Americans to the United States;

(5) ensure that the commemoration provides a lasting legacy and long-term public benefit by assisting in the development of appropriate programs; and

(6) help ensure that the observances of the commemoration are inclusive and appropriately represent the experiences and heritage of all individuals present at the arrival of Africans in the United States.

SEC. 4. COMMISSION MEETINGS.

(a) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

(b) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet—

(1) at least three times each year; or

(2) at the request of the Chairperson or the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson or the majority of the members of the Commission.

(c) QUORUM.—A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold meetings.

(d) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

(1) ELECTION.—The Commission shall elect the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of the Commission on an annual basis.

(2) ABSENCE OF THE CHAIRPERSON.—The Vice Chairperson shall serve as the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson.

(e) VOTING.—The Commission shall act only on an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Commission.

SEC. 5. COMMISSION POWERS.

(a) GIFTS.—The Commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of money or other property for aiding or facilitating the work of the Commission.

(b) APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—The Commission may appoint such advisory committees as the Commission determines to be necessary to carry out this Act.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF ACTION.—The Commission may authorize any member or employee of the Commission to take any action that the Commission is authorized to take under this Act.

(d) PROCUREMENT.—

SEC. 6. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a member of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

(2) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation other than that normally received for services of the member as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of an agency in subchapter III of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(c) DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws (including regulations), nominate an executive director to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(2) CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(d) COMPENSATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

(2) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—The rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel shall not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 3316 of title 5, United States Code.

(e) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

(1) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

(A) DETAIL.—At the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may detail on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out the duties of the Commission under this Act.

(B) CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.—The detail of an employee under subparagraph (A) shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(2) STATE EMPLOYEES.—The Commission may—
H.R. 1242 establishes a historical commission commemorating the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Africans in Virginia in 1619. The bill creates a commission to plan programs and activities in 2019 to recognize the arrival, influence, and historical importance of African Americans in our state.

Congress has previously established similar commissions to celebrate historical anniversaries. For example, there was a commission on the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, Virginia, and the 450th anniversary of the founding of St. Augustine, Florida.

As we reach the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Africans in Virginia, establishing this commission allows for the opportunity to acknowledge the horrible impact slavery has had in America. This is an opportunity to commemorate the resilience and contributions of African Americans in our country. While that chapter in our history is one we often forget, this is a story that must be told to acknowledge how profoundly unimaginable our Nation would be without the contribution of African Americans.

The commission will work with State and local officials to coordinate the commemoration and public education. The commission will be funded by private donations, not taxpayer dollars, and will terminate shortly after the anniversary activities conclude.

The bill authorizes the commission to provide grants to further the historical and cultural activities carried out in commemoration of the anniversary.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform approved this bill on March 28, 2017.

I thank Congressman Scott for his leadership on this legislation.

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

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

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1242, the 400 Years of African-American History Commission Act, introduced by my friend and colleague from Virginia, Bobby Scott. Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia has introduced a companion bill in the Senate.

In the 400 years since the first Africans arrived at Point Comfort, Virginia, African Americans have made an indelible mark on our Nation. They have been pioneers in the arts and sciences. They have led the charge for civil rights and spoken out against injustice against anybody. They have also ascended to the highest level of politics, athletics, and business, and sacrificed for our country in every military engagement from the American Revolution to the present-day fight against terrorism.

African Americans have played a crucial role in the establishment and evolution of our Nation.

Crispus Attucks, a Black man, became the first casualty of the American Revolution in my hometown of Boston when he confronted British soldiers in what became known as the Boston Massacre.

James Armistead, a slave who fed false information to the British, helped the Patriots’ cause to secure victory in the Battle of Yorktown.

Abolitionists, from Sojourner Truth to Frederick Douglass to Harriet Tubman, spoke out against slavery and fought to realize the meaning of Thomas Jefferson’s founding creed that all men are created equal.

And African Americans helped our country awaken its collective consciousness during the epochal civil rights movement, with the courageous actions of so many from Rosa Parks in the Montgomery bus boycott to the persevering spirit of our colleague John Lewis and the Freedom Riders, and the bold vision, of course, of Martin Luther King, Jr., that “injustice anywhere threatens justice everywhere.”

The bill before us today would recognize those accomplishments while acknowledging the sorry, tragic history of slavery in America and the subsequent era of discrimination and economic deprivation after the Civil War.

H.R. 1242 would establish a commission charged with celebrating the rich history of African Americans in the United States.

Along with States, community groups, and nonprofit organizations, the commission would plan and execute anniversary activities throughout the Nation and encourage the publication and distribution of scholarly research on African-American history.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1242.

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

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

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining on this side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky has 17 1⁄2 minutes remaining.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), my friend and the author of this bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1242, the 400 Years of African-American History Commission Act, which was introduced earlier this year by Senators Tim Kaine, Mark Warner, Roy Blunt, and Cory Booker. I was proud to introduce the House version, which has the support of Representatives Taylor, Richmond, Wittman, Beyer, McEachin, Lewis, Comstock, Connolly, Griffith, Goodlatte, and many others.

I would like to thank Chairman CHAFFETZ, Ranking Member CUMMINGS, Mr. COMER, and Mr. CONNOLLY for their leadership in bringing the bill to the floor today.

This bill would establish a commission to begin the planning of programs.
and activities across our Nation to recognize the contributions of African Americans since their first arrival as African slaves in the English colonies at Point Comfort, Virginia, in 1619, almost 400 years ago.

Slavery was an abhorrent institution, but the history of Virginia and our Nation cannot be fully understood without first recognizing the role played by the slave trade. This institution was the foundation of the colonial and early American agricultural system, the lives of most who arrived at Point Comfort in Hampton, Virginia, in 1619 were the first on record to be forcibly settled as involuntary laborers in the English colonies.

This bill will establish a commission to recognize and highlight the resilience and contributions of African Americans since 1619. From enduring slavery to fighting in the Civil War, to working against the oppressive Jim Crow laws, to struggling through the Civil Rights Movement, the rich history of African Americans in the United States and their contributions to our Nation began hundreds of years ago. Obviously, this history does not end there.

The commission established by this bill will be charged with the important task of planning, developing, and implementing a series of programs and activities throughout 2019 to tell the full story of African Americans over the last 400 years. This 15-member commission will include historical experts instead of politicians. Therefore, the true legacy of African Americans will be truthfully told.

It would be a great disservice not only to African Americans, but to all Americans, if we fail to properly recognize this important milestone in our Nation’s history.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank the chairman and ranking member of the committee, Mr. COMER and Mr. CONNOLLY, for their leadership in bringing this bill to the floor.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend BOBBY SCOTT for his leadership. This is an incredible service, not only to my Commonwealth of Virginia and his, but, frankly, to all Americans. This isn’t just an issue for African Americans or some subgroup. All of us are formed from our history, as we know from the popularity of the opening of the new African-American museum here in Washington, which is an incredible contribution, I think, to our Nation’s culture and our discussion.

Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER, Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1242, “400 Years of African-American History Commission Act”, which establishes the 400 Years of African-American History Commission to develop and carry out activities throughout the United States to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Africans in the English colonies at Point Comfort, Virginia, in 1619.

Through this bill, the commission must:
1. Plan programs and acknowledge the impact that slavery and laws that enforced racial discrimination had on the United States;
2. Encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, and economic organizations to organize and participate in anniversary activities;
3. Assist states, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration; and
4. Coordinate for the public scholarly research on the arrival of Africans in the United States and their contributions to this country.

The commission may provide:
1. Grants to communities and nonprofit organizations for the development of programs;
2. Grants to research and scholarly organizations to research, publish, or distribute information relating to the arrival of Africans in the United States; and
3. Technical assistance to states, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration.

The commission must prepare a strategic plan and submit a final report to Congress that contains a summary of its activities, an accounting of its received and expended funds, and its recommendations.

The commission would submit a final report to the Congress and terminate on July 1, 2020.

H.R. 1242 would authorize the appropriation of the necessary amounts for those purposes. The commission would consist of 15 members who would serve without pay but would be reimbursed for travel expenses.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1242 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028. Enacting H.R. 1242 would not affect revenues.

H.R. 1242 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

August of 2019 will mark 400 years since the first documented arrival of Africans who came to England America by way of Point Comfort, Va.

Not only is it appropriate to establish a commission that would recognize the contributions of African Americans, but it is historically significant to acknowledge that the “20 and odd” Africans (as it was recorded) were the first recorded group of Africans to be sold as involuntary laborers or indentured servants in the English colonies.

The commission would be charged with highlighting the resilience and contributions of African Americans, as well as acknowledging the painful impact that slavery and other atrocities have had on our nation.

African Americans have contributed to the economic, academic, social, cultural and moral well-being of this nation.

Could we claim America as the most innovative nation on earth without the invention of the modern traffic light, the perfection of the carburetor, the use of the mathematics that propelled Apollo astronauts to the moon? African-American culture is American culture, and African-American discoveries are American achievements. Without the accomplishments of African Americans, the United States could not boast the ingenuity and cultural richness that we cherish.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1242, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 23(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

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

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1180, WORKFAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2017; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MAY 5, 2017, THROUGH MAY 15, 2017; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115–106) on the resolution (H. Res. 299) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1180) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector; providing for proceedings during the period from May 5, 2017, through May 15, 2017; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 910, by the yeas and nays; H.R. 1312, by the yeas and nays; and H.R. 657, by the yeas and nays.

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

FAIR ACCESS TO INVESTMENT RESEARCH ACT OF 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the
bills (H.R. 910) to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. Hill) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 406, nays 0, not voting 23, as follows:

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FOLLOW THE RULES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unification of the House was by the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 657) to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend certain protections against prohibited personnel practices, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered printed.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device and, there were—yeas 407, nays 0, not voting 23, as follows:

[Vote Count]


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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Meg Daly, who is the founder of The Underline, a wonderful 10-mile linear park and urban trail in my congressional district that will serve to connect hundreds of Americans across Miami-Dade County through safe, alternative methods of transportation.

In 2013, Meg had an unfortunate accident that broke both of her arms. Since she couldn’t drive herself to attend physical therapy, she took the Metrorail near her home and walked under the train tracks to reach her destination. That is when Meg took notice of the underutilized land right below the Metrorail and envisioned its transformative potential for community mobility, positive economic impact, formative potential for community, and enhanced quality of life.

The Underline counts with overwhelming support across Miami-Dade, providing for a safe and healthy space for our community members to express themselves. From free yoga classes to artistic festivals to projects to restore Miami’s urban green space, each day The Underline is getting closer to becoming what Meg has envisioned.

Congratulations to one of our community’s leaders, Meg Daly.

MODERN DAY SLAVERY IN LIBYA
(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, after the United States toppled the Government of Libya, the nation became a failed state, one that is a brothel of slavery. Fleecing persecution from terrorists and vast famine, west Africans hand their life savings over to drivers who will take them to Niger, then off to Europe. But these refugees are labor trafficked as slaves to Libya instead. They are bound to the slave block and sold at the auction of slavery.

The slave drivers force them to work inside private prisons for little or no food. Meanwhile, the slave masters demand ransoms from the families. If the families don’t pay the ransom, the refugees are sold again to larger prisons and the demand doubles. If the ransom is never paid, the slaves are eventually murdered.

Mr. Speaker, human slavery still exists in north Africa, and it is a scourge of humanity. But the United States should be very careful about taking out a regime like it did in Libya without understanding the long-term consequences like what happened in Libya. And that is just the way it is.

PRESIDENT OBAMA’S LEGACY
(Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important parts of President Obama’s legacy is the recognition that Americans should not be discriminated against based on pre-existing conditions. This principle was enshrined in law by the Affordable Care Act, and now millions of Americans across the political spectrum support these vital protections. Even yesterday, President Trump, an avowed opponent of the Affordable Care Act, stated unequivocally that he was opposed to discrimination based on pre-existing conditions.

The bill under consideration by this House, the American Health Care Act, does not represent that same bipartisan principle. My colleagues are advancing a measure that would let States turn back the clock for millions of Americans and begin that discrimination again.

Today, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill for the sake of all those it would harm. For the sake of anyone who has survived cancer, battled diabetes, or was simply born a woman, I urge you, vote “no.”

TELL ME IT ISN’T SO
(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, a few of us were at the United Nations this morning and this afternoon, and what we heard most was the importance of empowering women in developing countries who have experienced violence, sexual violence. Tell me it isn’t so that America is going back on her values and her commitment to helping people around the world, particularly vulnerable women and children, and, of course, denigrating the First Amendment and the freedom of the press. Tell me it isn’t so.

FLEXIBILITY FOR WORKERS
(Mr. BERGMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1180, the PRIMING THE PUMP THROUGH SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT
(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, a few of us were at the United Nations this morning and this afternoon, and what we heard most was the importance of empowering women in developing countries who have experienced violence, sexual violence. Tell me it isn’t so that America is going back on her values and her commitment to helping people around the world, particularly vulnerable women and children, and, of course, denigrating the First Amendment and the freedom of the press. Tell me it isn’t so.
Working Families Flexibility Act, introduced by my friend, the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY). The House will be considering the bill later this week to give private sector employees the same flexibility offered to many Federal and, Federal Government workers that have had it for many years now.

The legislation will give employees the option of receiving compensatory time off from their employers instead of overtime wages. It does not change the 40-hour workweek, and it does not weaken employee protections. We are simply giving American workers more choice.

The bill does not allow for employees to coerce anyone into choosing one option over another. It would be a voluntary decision made between the employer and the employee. Everyone needs flexibility in their schedule to balance between work and personal needs and the employee. Everyone voluntary decision made between the employer and the employee. Everyone needs flexibility in their schedule to balance between work and personal time, and we should be giving American workers the option to choose what is most important to them: overtime wages or time off. It should be their decision and the Government’s.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 1180, the Working Families Flexibility Act.

PRESIDENT TRUMP’S BROKEN PROMISES

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, add job creation and infrastructure to the list of President Trump’s broken promises. After 102 days in office, the so-called “greatest jobs President that God ever created” has failed to present a single job or infrastructure bill.

At the same time, his slash-and-burn budget would cut investments in job growth infrastructure, imposing a $2.4 billion cut on the U.S. Department of Transportation. Included in those cuts are drastic reductions of the Federal support for Amtrak and the outright elimination of the TIGER grant program.

The President’s budget proposal also phases out the New Starts grant program, making critical infrastructure projects, including New Jersey and New Mexico Gateway Program ineligible for Federal funding needed to move forward.

As I speak, New Jersey rail commuters are probably facing massive delays and disruptions to their already nightmarish commute. President Trump’s proposed cuts to vital Federal infrastructure programs will only make the problem worse. It has been an ugly 102 days for President Trump, and, unless he tackles jobs and infrastructure, as promised, it is going to get uglier.

HONORING MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on May 1 to recognize Silver Star Service Banner Day. Today is a day when we honor the service and sacrifice of our Active-Duty men and women from all branches of the service from all wars. Silver Star Service Banner Day started in 2007 and is sponsored by the Silver Star Families of America, which is dedicated to supporting and assisting wounded, ill, injured, and dying Active-Duty veterans and their families.

May is also National Military Appreciation Month. All month long, we have the opportunity to honor, remember, recognize, and appreciate those who serve and have served. Our military men and women continue to play a major role in the development of our country documented through a history of uncompromising honor, dedication to duty, and genuine love of country.

Personally, I am so proud of my military dad, as my son Logan continues to serve in the United States Army and my daughter-in-law, Carley, is now a veteran. Mr. Speaker, we are the home of the free because of the brave, and I want to thank all who serve this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, only two individuals have ever offered to willingly die for you. One was Jesus Christ and the other was the American soldier. One died for your soul, the other died for your freedom.

THANK YOU TO CONGRESSWOMAN ROD-LEHTINEN

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as the senior woman in the U.S. House, I wanted to say thank you to Congresswoman ILEANA LEHTINEN, the senior Republican woman in the House, and to say with poignancy I received her decision recently to retire from our beloved House.

ILEANA has been the first Cuban American elected to Congress, the first Latina elected to Congress, and the first Republican woman from Florida to be elected to Congress. She ably chaired the Committee on Foreign Affairs during her tenure, and there were many sessions when new Speakers were sworn in and she and I tabulated the results of that very important election.

I can remember when her children were born. I can always say she handled her service with great distinction, with great honor, with great humor, and she made friends on both sides of the aisle. I am glad that she is staying through the remainder of this session, but I must say that this House will lose a spark of brilliance and of wit when she chooses to leave us. I will also say that it was a particular joy to serve with her because no matter what the issue, no matter what the time of year, no matter what the hour of day, she always approached her position with great professionalism.

I regret her leaving, but I know her service has made a difference. For women across America, since she first arrived in 1989, our numbers have quintupled. We now have over 100 women who serve in this House with distinction, and she has helped blaze that path.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve my opportunity to say more about her in the days ahead.

GI INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to highlight H.R. 758, the GI Internship Program Act. I am a cosponsor of this important legislation with my colleague from Illinois, BRAD SCHNEIDER. If implemented, this bill would expand the use of the existing post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to include internships as an option in place of a traditional degree program.

The GI Internship Program Act would allow veterans to gain practical skills and work experience to help ease
their transition back into the civilian workforce. Under current law, the post-9/11 GI Bill only allocates money to veterans for traditional postsecondary education in the classroom, but for many veterans this is a path not meant for them.

For example, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were over 300,000 unfilled manufacturing jobs at the end of 2016. This gap could be filled by the veterans who use their post-9/11 GI benefits as a stipend to support them while receiving on-the-job training as high-skilled technical workers.

Further, these jobs can be filled at no additional cost to the employer because the cost would be covered by the preexisting GI Bill. This bill would allow businesses all over the U.S., both large and small, to meet their employment needs and help our skilled veterans enter the civilian workforce.

As long as employers comply with the program and intend to hire the veterans after the internship is over, the veterans will continue to receive funding. This bill is a win for American job growth and an important win, a win for our veterans.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense measure.

**JOB FLEXIBILITY FOR WORKING FAMILIES**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RUTHERFORD). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

**GENERAL Leave**

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Alabama? There was no objection.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1180, the Working Families Flexibility Act.

I would love to take credit for this idea. It is not my own. It is a bill that has been carried by other Members on several occasions. I have had the privilege to carry this bill the last few Congresses, and I am excited that we are going to have a bill tomorrow and, God willing, have a vote on it.

The Working Families Flexibility Act is a simple amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act. The Fair Labor Standards Act has been the law of the land since 1938.

In 1985, the Fair Labor Standards Act was amended to allow compensatory time. That is paid time off in lieu of cash wages for overtime for public sector employees. But, oddly enough, private sector employees were left out of the equation.

This bill, H.R. 1180, simply provides that the private sector can have access to compensatory time in lieu of cash wages for overtime. This doesn’t eliminate overtime, but, rather, gives flexibility in the workplace for hard-working Americans to make a decision about how to use their time.

Every time a private sector employee works an hour of overtime, they would be eligible for an hour and a half of paid leave only if the employer first offers this as a benefit, but, most importantly, that the employee elects voluntarily to compensate at an overtime rate over cash payments for overtime.

Congress cannot legislate another hour in the day, but what we can do is provide flexibility for hardworking men and women all over this country that may want to use their accrued overtime to coach a soccer game, help with an aging parent, take their child to the pediatrician, or, quite frankly, accrue the time to go on a mission trip somewhere. But this is an opportunity the employee can opt out at any time. The employee can cash out, so to speak. There are cash-out provisions in this bill.

So if the arrangement between the employer and the employee is not working out, meaning the employer can’t find the appropriate time to utilize the time, like the employee can say: Do you know what? I would rather have my cash payments for overtime. And within 30 days the employer must provide those cash payments that that employee has rightfully earned.

I just think this is a great opportunity for us to provide this benefit to so many folks out there who are just trying to balance their life and work, their children, their parents, and all of the things that come with that. As a working mom, I certainly can relate to all of the pushes and pulls that parents have on them in wanting to just provide for their family. Again, at the end of the day, this time belongs to that individual, therefore, he or she ought to be able to make a decision about how to use their time.

I have several Members who are here tonight that are going to speak on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER). I thank her so much for her willingness to speak on this issue.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Alabama for yielding, my good friend, MARTHA ROBY, who has been such a leader on this issue. It has been my great privilege to be a sponsor of the Working Families Flexibility Act in the 113th Congress, in the 114th Congress, and now again in the 115th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Working Families Flexibility Act of 2017, which will remove a Federal restriction on private sector employees who would like the option of comp time compensation in lieu of cash for their overtime work, the same as public sector employees. Mr. Speaker, we are talking about a voluntary choice made by employers for cash overtime or for comp time.

The last thing our Federal Government should be doing is dictating how our small-business employees and entrepreneur compensation operates. Mr. Speaker, in November, Mr. Trump and many Americans spoke loud and clear: it is time to get government out of the pockets and off of the backs of hardworking Americans.

Americans are also desperate for job flexibility. I know I was also as a working mom when I worked at Ralston Purina in St. Louis, Missouri. They want to have a better balance of obligations of their day-to-day jobs while taking care of family and family matters.

The Working Families Flexibility Act will help us do just that. For the past 30 years, public sector employees have enjoyed the benefit of choosing voluntary paid time off, or comp time, instead of cash wages as compensation for working overtime hours. Private sector workers, who make up an incredibly large portion of our economy, should also reap this benefit. It is simply common sense.

Amending this overtime restriction through this legislation will help bring our workforce standards into the 21st century and allow our workers to do their jobs while still providing them with the voluntary flexibility to raise a family, pursue a college degree, care for aging parents, or tend to the day-to-day obligations that come their way.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Working Families Flexibility Act, as it safeguards workers’ time, wages, and their use of the comp time they have earned. Most importantly, as we work each day to get our economy back on track, this legislation empowers the American worker with more options and flexibility that will ultimately lead to a better quality of life.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for taking the time to speak on this bill. I appreciate her willingness to speak on behalf of the Working Families Flexibility Act. In doing so, she is speaking on behalf of so many hardworking American families.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure. And I must say, since we do have time, that her being a champion of this in the last three Congresses that I have had the pleasure of working—and my constituents in Missouri’s Second District have sent me—it is wonderful to see a working mom like her, who is juggling all of those day-to-day needs, to stand up for private sector workers who have the same kinds of options and flexibility that our public sector has enjoyed for some 30 years. So I thank her for being a
May 1, 2017

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H2993

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Congresswoman ROBY for her work on it, for not giving up, for listening to constituents across the country, and for focusing on working families in the private sector to let them have a choice to have the flexibility to be where they need to be after they put the overtime in. It is not only fair, and, to me, it is the American way to solve a problem.

I thank Mrs. ROBY for her hard work. I thank the leader for bringing this bill to the floor and giving it the recognition and the time that it deserves. I appreciate the leader taking his time to be here and speak on behalf of the Working Families Flexibility Act.

I would like to turn now to my friend and colleague, also from Missouri (Vicky Hartzler). I just want to point out, though, as I move to her comments, we have to recognize that the workforce has more than 70 percent of mothers today work outside of the home, and the gentlewoman here certainly one of those who understands that as she has worked so hard and now Tiffany is about to graduate from high school. We had a conversation yesterday that we were bringing our babies to the floor together.

But 70 percent of mothers today work outside of the home. Fifty years ago, that number was less than 30 percent. So the workforce has changed tremendously, but our policies have not kept up with that change.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER).

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I appreciate the gentlewoman championing this issue, and we have brought our kids here and know the challenges of juggling work and family—and we are not alone. As you said, many, many families in this country are facing these same challenges, and that is why I am so excited about your bill and so proud to sponsor it and stand with you tonight.

The family is really the foundation of our country, and to have strong families, we need to be able to make ways to encourage them to be together, especially for those special, special events. I know there are many, many moms and dads out there working today who would love to be able to have the flexibility of the workplace to give their kids, working families in the private sector to let them have a choice to have the flexibility to be where they need to be.

I want to thank Mrs. ROBY for her work on it, for not giving up, for listening to constituents across the country, and for focusing on working families in the private sector to let them have a choice to have the flexibility to be where they need to be. I want that just to happen in government. We want the private sector to have the same fairness that governs the rest of America. We want employees to have the same fairness that governs the rest of America. We want employees to have the same fairness that governs the rest of America.

Mr. Speaker, I want the private sector to have the same fairness that governs the rest of America. We want the private sector to have the same fairness that governs the rest of America. We want employees to have the same fairness that governs the rest of America.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield to my dear friend from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), our majority leader. During my time in Congress, I have never known anyone who has been a stronger champion for finding ways to help families using conservative, commonsense ideas.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to praise the gentlewoman, she is an attorney, she is a wife, but, most importantly, she is a mother to two beautiful children. She has the same concerns and the same challenges that everybody else across this country has: Does she have enough time? Does she have the flexibility?

Just going through her own life, listening to her constituents, she came forth with this bill. She has worked hard to bring the Working Families Flexibility Act to this floor. She has done it before, and it passed in this House. One of the things I admire most about her is she does not give up. Because it is not about her; it is about the rest of America, and it is also about fairness.

In 1978, Congress granted this choice to government employees. Twenty-nine years later, it is past time we end the double standard and offer the same deal to workers in the private sector.

You can work and work overtime, but then you have the choice if you want to take that in pay, or would you like to have comp time? Maybe there is a child sick, or maybe you have a family member that comes down with a disease, or another choice. You can go and spend time. You get to direct it. I think that is great policy. That is why government workers have it.

But why can't they have the same standards in the private sector?

Do you know what would happen? Higher productivity. It would actually move America's economy.

Why? Because the individual has choice.

Instead of being concerned and worried about something that is happening away that you need to be at, you put that time in. And instead of taking the money, you put it into flexibility.

I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. HASTINGS).

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I just commend you for putting this bill forth again. I am very excited about this bill, proud to stand alongside you and look forward to what I believe should be—and should be—a unanimous vote tomorrow because this is such a great bill.

So thank you so much for allowing me to come down and to share my support, and the people of the Fourth District of Missouri would just love to have this. Keep up the great work. We will look forward to bringing this across the finish line.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman and all of her comments and her support as a working mom who understands all of the pushes and pulls that so many American families face.

I want to spend a little bit of time, while I have the opportunity, to talk about some of the myths about the Working Families Flexibility Act. There is so much misinformation, false information that is out there about this bill.

Trust me, we are on social media responding to the information that is being put out there that is incorrect because we want to make sure people understand. This bill is not intended to hurt people. It is intended to help people and offer a much-needed benefit to provide people flexibility in the workforce.

The first myth I want to address is that this will result in employees working longer hours for less pay. The fact is that the Working Families Flexibility Act safeguards workers' time and wages. Receiving paid time off or compensatory time for working overtime hours under this bill is completely voluntary. An employee who prefers to receive cash payments for overtime hours worked is always free to do so.

Employers and employees are required to complete a written comp time agreement, a voluntary written agreement, and an employee can withdraw from this agreement at any time and receive cash wages for accrued comp time.
Comp time is accrued at the same rate as overtime cash wages, so employees who work more than the 40-hour week will accrue paid time off at a rate time and a half for the overtime hours worked. Workers can cash out—meaning, say “I want the money instead of the time”—whenever they choose, and employers are required to provide those cash wages that that employee has accrued within 30 days of receiving that employee’s request.

Another myth is that the Working Families Flexibility Act is the same standard used today for public employees who are using this benefit to receive comp time, and this has worked for over 30 years. As my colleagues have already stated, this is a matter of fairness. If it is good enough for government employees, it should be good enough for private sector employees as well.

All existing labor enforcement remedies, including action by the Department of Labor, are available if a worker believes he or she has been unfairly treated. I can’t put enough emphasis on this, that the anticoercion, the anti-intimidation provisions that are currently a part of the law, of course, apply to the Working Families Flexibility Act. And it even promotes greater workplace flexibility while protecting the needs of the employer, but the employee is very protected from that type of behavior and coercion by the employer.

I have some other myths and facts that I am going to go over, but I see that the chairwoman of the Education and the Workforce Committee has joined us. I really appreciate the gentlewoman, the chairwoman, and all the work that she has done to support the working Families Flexibility Act.

I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. Foxx).

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman H. R. 1180, the Working Families Flexibility Act of 2017. Everyone in the private sector, men and women, are grateful to you for doing this.

I may repeat some of the things that some of my colleagues have already said, but, Mr. Speaker, they bear repeating. This proposal, this bill, is about freedom, flexibility, and fairness. Workers, not the Federal Government, should have the freedom to choose what is best for them and their families. Hard-working men and women need more flexibility to balance work, life, and family, and there should be fair workforce policies that don’t put private sector employees at a disadvantage to those in the public sector.

Across the country, there are moms and dads who wish they had more flexibility to make their child’s baseball game or dance recital, students who can’t find enough time to study for college finals while working full time, and individuals who are struggling to care for an aging relative. There are many workers who want flexible work arrangements instead of rigid 9 to 5 schedules so they can attend to their personal needs.

This bill will improve the quality of life of many Americans by offering workers eligible for overtime pay a choice between paid time off and cash wages. Outdated Federal labor rules currently prohibit private sector workers from exercising this choice.

More than a century ago, Republicans and Democrats amended the law to give public sector workers the option of comp time. This was a positive step, but it created double standards. It is time to ease this double standard by leveling the playing field between private sector employees and government workers when it comes to workplace flexibility. That is exactly what this bill does. It is a commonsense idea that empowers workers with more options.

As my colleague from Alabama said, the decision to choose comp time is completely voluntary and requires a written agreement between the worker and employer. Those who want to continue receiving cash wages as overtime pay are always free to do so. It also explicitly prohibits employers from coercing workers into electing comp time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is, again, about fairness and it is so difficult for me to understand how Democrats would be opposed to that. We should have the same rules in the private sector as we do in the public sector. I think that Democrats have run out of excuses not to provide workers this choice. All we are doing here is giving a choice.

No one, Republican nor Democrat, should think they know what is best for individual workers and their families.

Mr. Speaker, when we vote on this bill this week, I hope all of our colleagues will come to their senses and see that they are discriminating against the private sector by denying them the opportunity to take their overtime as comp time and that they will vote for this bill.

Again, I thank my colleague from Alabama for her leadership on this Special Order, but particularly her willingness to introduce this bill and take the lead in bringing it to the committee.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman, and again, I appreciate her leadership for moving this bill through committee and for getting it ready through the Rules Committee so that we can be here on the floor tomorrow. Again, I appreciate her leadership on this and many, many other issues that she does on a daily basis to fight for Americans, in this case, Americans that are subject to the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act that would benefit from this amendment in the private sector.

I want to go back. I have two more myths that I would like to address.

Here is the myth: the Working Families Flexibility Act will allow employers to force workers to take comp time instead of cash payments for overtime. The fact is that the Working Families Flexibility Act prohibits worker coercion. The decision to use compensatory time is completely voluntary. An employer who prefers to receive cash payments for overtime hours worked is always free to do that. It explicitly prohibits an employer from directly or indirectly intimidating, threatening, or coercing; or attempting to intimidate, threaten, or coerce an employee into taking or not taking compensatory time.

An employer who violates these anticoercion provisions will be liable to the affected employee for double damages which includes both the amount of the comp time and an equal amount in cash wages.

In addition to new provisions prohibiting coercion, H. R. 1180 ensures all existing enforcement remedies, including action by the Department of Labor, and are available to workers if an employer fails to pay cash wages for the overtime hours worked.

Myth: this bill is unnecessary because current law already allows for workplace flexibility. The fact is that the Working Families Flexibility Act empowers workers with more options.

Under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, private sector employees may only use paid time off during the same paid period in which it is accrued. Paid time off cannot be saved by the employee for future use outside of that pay period.

The law currently allows public sector employees to accrue comp time to be used at their discretion so long as reasonable notice is given and the leave does not unduly disrupt the workplace.

My amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Working Families Flexibility Act, H. R. 1180, provides private sector employees with comp time benefits similar to what is already available in the public sector.

Here is how it works: an hourly wage employee would be able to voluntarily enter into an agreement with their employer to put all of some of their accrued overtime towards paid time off. The employee could use the time and the wages. A working dad could use the time to take care of his sick child or to earn a half paid hour and a half off of work. No employee, again, could ever be forced to take the paid
time off, just like no business would be forced to offer this benefit.

Upon introducing this bill 4 years ago, I heard from a very special lady named Karen DeLoach. She worked as a bookkeeper in an accounting firm of my home town, Montgomery, Alabama. Like many in her line of work, Karen would put in many hours during the busy season and build up a lot of overtime. Karen once approached her boss and said: Well, can I accrue my overtime to use as paid leave rather than take payments? The answer was, I’m afraid to see, Karen gave her time to serve on a mission trip in Nicaragua every summer, and she wanted to do so and go on her church’s mission trip without interrupting her regular paycheck.

Montgomery, Alabama, is the State capital, and Karen had heard her State employee friends talk about how they swapped their overtime pay for comp time in their jobs. She never imagined that a similar arrangement at the private business at which she worked would be against the law, but that is what her boss informed her. He wanted to give it to her, but he couldn’t under the law. To his credit, he wanted to offer it to her, but he wasn’t about to break the law.

Karen’s story isn’t unique. As I have already referenced, just think of all the parents in this country with young kids or caring for elderly parents or a military family with one or both of the parents deployed or about to deploy. They need time to get ready to take care of their responsibilities.

So the Working Families Flexibility Act is not going to end or solve the debt crisis or fix ObamaCare or simplify the Tax Code. I am proud of our efforts here in Congress to repeal and replace ObamaCare, to put forth a tax policy that is fair, flatter, and simpler, and to continue to cut out wasteful spending. This bill doesn’t solve any of those problems.

But the fact that we can’t solve those problems overnight shouldn’t stop us here in the House of Representatives from doing what we can do right now to help make life a little easier for working moms and dads. That is what the Working Families Flexibility Act does, helping Americans better balance the demands of family and work. I want to thank all those Members who have come here to the floor tonight to speak on this bill. As a working mom, I understand all too well how challenging it can be to balance our responsibilities.

Again, I have sponsored this bill this Congress, of course, and the past two before that. I have heard criticism from labor unions and the individuals saying that this bill is somehow antiunion or antiworker. This is just simply untrue.

Of course, many in Big Labor will reflexively attack any proposal that would change a single word of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Ironically here, labor unions, see, they oppose this, but they themselves can and often do negotiate similar agreements for their members already.

That seems a bit unfair. So it is okay for those who are members of unions to negotiate similar compensatory time arrangements, it is okay for those who work in the public sector, under the law to utilize compensatory time, but it is just not good enough for the hourly wage employee in the private sector. That is more than unfair.

The legislation is completely voluntary for both the employer and the employee. You don’t have to change the pay formula or workweek or change the way overtime is calculated. It strengthens provisions for workers and increases penalties for abuse. It contains strong anti-coercion provisions that would prohibit an employer from directly or indirectly trying to intimidate or coerce workers into taking comp time.

Workers have the option under the Working Families Flexibility Act to cash out at any time. If for some reason the voluntary agreement, just isn’t working out, an employee can always take the cash, no questions asked.

And, finally, for workers represented by a labor union, any comp time arrangement would have to be negotiated under this bill as part of the collective bargaining agreement, just as they already do.

Mr. Speaker, as I finish tonight, I just want to say again, as a mom, a working mom, a family where both parents work outside of the home, I certainly understand for some of us the time, our time, the time that has been accrued by an hourly wage employee, is more important than the cash wages. That may not be true for everybody. That remains in that the employee can determine what he or she wants to do with their time.

Again, I am grateful for the many people who have worked so hard on this bill over the years. I am grateful for those who were able to represent Alabama’s Second District and to represent so many hardworking American families here tonight in this hour.

I look forward to the debate tomorrow here on the floor on this bill. I would urge all of my colleagues to please vote in favor of H.R. 1180, the Working Families Flexibility Act.

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

CELEBRATING NATIONAL CHAR- TER SCHOOLS WEEK AND SUCCES- SITY ACADEMY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Charter Schools Week, I want to highlight my recent visit to Success Academy Harlem 1, which is one of 41 charter schools in the largest and highest performing public charter school network in New York City.

Success Academy current serves 14,000 students and has more than 16,000 families on its wait list. Founded in 2006, Harlem 1 is Success Academy’s first school, and founder Eva Moskowitz served as its first principal.

With a focus on developing the whole child, Success Academy aims to make its schools joyful places of learning. I am here to tell you that these schools are getting results, and they are joyful.

Five of the top five schools in the State of New York in math and two of the top five schools in English are Success Academy schools.

Every student in every school deserves an excellent education, but unfortunately we are falling far short of that goal as a nation. Thankfully, innovative charter schools like Success Academy Harlem 1 are providing thousands of families with new hope and opportunity.

THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF THE TRUMP PRESIDENCY AND ITS IMPACT ON MINORITY COMMUNITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to coanchor this CBC Special Order hour with my esteemed colleague from Texas (Mr. VEASEY). For the next 60 minutes, we have a chance to speak directly to the American people on issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, Congress, the constituents we represent, and all Americans.

This evening, the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY), my friend and colleague, I first thank him for his continued leadership of the caucus and on issues impacting Black America and other minority communities across this great nation.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY), my colleague, for joining me in chairing this evening’s Special Order hour, and my other CBC colleagues who are joining us to speak on important issues.

Mr. Speaker, we are here tonight to address the first 100 days of the Trump Presidency and its impact on minority communities like the district I represent and those of my fellow CBC colleagues. Specifically, we will highlight 100 actions taken by this administration in the last 100 days with less than positive impact to the communities we represent.

The President hails his first 100 days as the most successful in the history of the United States. These actions, however, do not spell success for low income and minority communities. Actions that, in turn, roll back Department of Justice protections designed to protect communities that threaten to further restrict voting rights and undermine the public education system; actions that threaten...
access to quality affordable health care for millions of Americans, including children, seniors, and those with pre-existing medical conditions; actions that propose gutting programs, HUD, and others that provide housing assistance to extremely low-income families and those that mean-spiritedly break up families and make immigrant communities less safe; and actions that roll back important environmental protections which serve to, among other things, ensure safe air and drinking waters in communities like Flint, Michigan, and mitigating the effects of climate change in vulnerable coastal communities like my home district of the United States Virgin Islands.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus has reached out to President Trump and is willing to work with his administration to continue to build upon the greatness of this country—and not just for the privileged few but for all.

As representatives of a congressional district that is home to the only HBCU outside the continental United States, I take exception to the administration’s Education Secretary viewing HBCUs as pioneers for school choice, even though these institutions were founded because White colleges and universities refused to admit Black students.

This statement illustrates a lack of understanding of the history of the African Americans and the Black community. President Trump’s proposed budget for the Department of Education plans to eliminate afterschool and teacher-support programs, as well as slashing funding for Federal supplemental education opportunity grants, Pell grants, and instead divert Federal funds to private school vouchers. This plan not only diverts Federal monies to entities like my home district where almost one-third of the children live below the poverty line and where public schools are already struggling to make the best with limited funds and resources.

President Trump’s budget proposal would also cut the Department of Health and Human Services’ budget by $12.6 billion, a 16 percent cut. In my home district of the United States Virgin Islands, HHS funds critical early childhood education; and nutrition programs that provide assistance to seniors, low-income families, and funding for mental health programs.

Mr. Speaker, these and other actions that my colleagues will speak about are not to criticize the President, but more to highlight the importance of funding these programs and, more importantly, highlighting how important these programs and government functions are to American families and to the safety and progress of our communities. America, stay working. There are still more than 1,300 days to go.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY).
One of the things I wanted to highlight is a booklet that the Congressional Black Caucus has put out about 100 actions that have taken place in these 100 days:

President Trump’s proposed budget would eliminate the Economic Development Administration at the Department of Commerce. In 2015, EDA invested 38 percent of its funds in highly distressed areas, including communities with high minority populations, such as the gentleman from Texas and mine.

President Trump’s proposed budget would eliminate the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund. People ask, what is that? This is an organization which channels investments into communities in need of capital for housing, small businesses, and community facilities. That is its sole function.

President Trump said that the private sector already did a good job making investments in these communities, which demonstrates how out of touch and ill-informed he and his administration are. His administration needs to tell him and give him the facts about what is going on in minority and underdeveloped communities.

As we will hear from our colleagues, there are areas in which environmental protection and climate change, social justice for environmental justice needs to take place. President Trump’s proposed budget would cut environmental protection agencies, environmental justice programs that work to ensure fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, and national origin or income with the respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. It would simply cut it out of play.

The proposed budget would cut the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s coastal programs, which would affect populations, including minorities living along the Gulf Coast and other coastal areas.

At this time, we have other members of the Congressional Black Caucus that are here to talk about environmental justice.

This freshman Member has really stepped in and just taken a hold of actions and demonstrating a love for his constituents in coming here this evening and wanting to address environmental justice areas.

I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. McEachin).

Mr. McEachin. Mr. Speaker, every Monday, Representatives Plaskett and Veasey lead our Caucus’ discussion on issues of great importance to the Americans, yet we still fall short on those goals in important ways. While I believe we are making progress, this is a critical moment.

Over the last 100 days, we have seen how eager the new administration is to undo our recent achievements, from selecting EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, a man who does not believe in climate change, to overturning critical antipollution protections. The administration has even favoredly discussed pulling the United States from a global climate change prevention pact, a move that could have disastrous, unknowable consequences for every generation to come.

Mr. Speaker, the list goes on and on; but at this point, Mr. Speaker, before I continue, I want to bring forward my good friend—he has got a fabulous first name like I do—Congressman Donald Payne, Jr. He is from the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey. He is a fierce advocate for environmental justice in his hometown of Newark. I thank you. His voice and advocacy will help us move toward sounder policies and more just outcomes, and I look forward to working with the gentleman.

Ms. Plaskett. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. Payne).

Mr. Payne. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank the gentleman from the Commonwealth of Virginia (Mr. McEachin). It is the birthplace of my mother: Dinwiddie County, Virginia. My grandfather was the tobacco farmer, and I learned to cut tobacco at 8 years old.

I am from Newark, New Jersey, the Garden State. We didn’t raise much tobacco there in the Garden State, but my friends used think I was going on vacation when I would leave. I said I wasn’t going on vacation; I was going to work. That is what we did for the summer. It was a great experience, and I always have great, great memories of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, last month, as part of a partnership with the National Newspaper Publishers Association, I wrote an op-ed on environmental justice issues. I will repeat what I wrote then, which is that environmental justice should be a national priority, not a problem confined to minority communities.

African-American communities are disproportionately burdened with pollutants. Across the Nation, communities of color suffer from higher rates of exposure to air pollution, higher rates of lead poisoning, and higher rates of water pollution.

Every single day, children in my home city of Newark, New Jersey, are exposed to harmful levels of pollution from the port and other sources that rob them of their health, just because of where they live.

One in four Newark children has asthma. The hospitalization rate for Newark children is 30 times the rate of
the national average. Asthma is the leading cause of absenteeism in school-age children in the city of Newark, New Jersey.

Yet, too often, environmental justice is an afterthought, or often it is missing entirely, in favor of plants to the challenges facing African Americans.

The Trump administration threatens to make the problem even worse. President Trump has prioritized rolling back environmental regulations, from emissions rules for power plants to the mandate that Federal decisionmaking must be taken into consideration on climate change impacts.

President Trump proposed slashing the EPA’s budget by 31 percent, cutting enforcement of the Agency’s clean air laws by $239 million.

With threats of excessive cuts to the EPA, air quality across the Nation may even be worse than expected. In the American Lung Association’s “State of the Air” report, my district and a number of other metropolitan areas ranked as having the most polluted air in the country. However, only one-third of counties have ozone or particulate pollution air monitors. We must fight to ensure that funding for air monitoring is a part of our communities.

So what can we do to protect our communities from environmental degradation?

The Newark City Council has been a leader in that area and has passed a first-in-the-nation ordinance requiring developers to request environmental permits to inform the city of any environmental impacts. As a result, decision-makers and the public will be able to make informed decisions about sustainable development. Other municipalities will be smart to follow Newark’s lead.

Last November, I joined Amy Goldsmith and Kim Gaddy of the Clean Water Action and the Coalition for Health, Justice and the Environment on an environmental justice tour of the Port of New York and New Jersey. We were also joined by Congressman Frank Pallone from New Jersey. Organizations like theirs are doing excellent work in the fight against health-threatening pollution. Expanding partnerships on the environmental justice initiatives must be a central part of our strategy to secure environmental protections.

To those listening at home: I encourage you to make it clear to your elected officials that you will hold them accountable for any efforts to dismantle environmental protections and any failures to fight for environmental justice.

And to my colleague from Virginia, it is really noteworthy that you have taken the lead on this issue. As I stated in my presentation, Newark, New Jersey, is 30 times greater propensity for asthma in children than the national average. I mean, that is almost criminal.

And we as a home, myself, not just have heard about it, but have lived it. My middle son—I am the father of triplets. My middle son has grown up with asthma; the days we had to keep him inside. He has been fortunate to have not—knock on wood—have many instances throughout his childhood of asthma attacks, but the one that I did see really brought me to tears.

To know that there are numbers of children throughout this country who don’t have the opportunity to go to the doctor; who rush to the hospital with asthma attacks, and who, God forbid, sometimes don’t make it to the doctor is just—to think that that could be my boy brings tears to my heart.

So I am willing to make this fight not just for my son, but for the hundreds of thousands of children throughout this country who suffer from this disease, and make sure that the EPA stays intact to fight these dreaded diseases, especially in minority communities, in our young people, and throughout the country.

I will close with the drinking water issue in Flint. The Congressional Black Caucus went out to Flint when the issue first came up. Ms. Pelosi was there as well, and we talked to the people of Flint and watched their heartbreak and not being able to think they could trust anyone. Their government had let them down; had lied to them, had given them poison to drink and said it is okay. It looked like rusty water, but they told them that it was fine to use it for baths or whatever.

So I am sitting there on that stage listening to all this and I am thinking in the back of my head: I am from Newark, New Jersey, the third oldest city in this country’s history. So Flint, Michigan, can’t be that old because Lewis and Clark went West.

So the third oldest city, what were my pipes like? What was the condition of my water supply from the Detroit area water system. And I went back and I saw several mayors from my district, and I said: I suggest you start looking at your water systems.

And last week marks 3 weeks—3 years, I should say, since the city of Flint, Michigan, decided to switch their water supply from the Detroit area water system to the Flint River water system, which resulted in lead contamination within the city. It is 3 years later and, sadly, not much has changed for the communities in Flint. Three days is too long to go without clean drinking water. Three years is simply heartbreaking.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen how various communities across the U.S. are at greater risk of health problems due to overexposure to unsafe drinking water. Now is no time to cut funding for Americans in need.

As Questlove says: “Without science, we are truly operating blindly.” The cuts to the EPA would have an increasingly harmful impact, especially for communities of color and hardworking families who do not have the resources to fight back against their local governments about the safety of the water they drink or question old paint in their house.

According to the State Department of Health, in 2014, more than 10 percent of the children from Philadelphia had elevated levels of lead in their blood because they were exposed to lead-based paint. Exposure to lead-based paint is a chronic problem that goes undiscovered too often.

No level is safe for our children to be exposed to, just as no level of lead is safe for our children to drink.

As I always said: What don’t we have to lose?

We have a lot to lose.

In the time that I met with the organization in my community—a number of organizations called Mothers for Clean Air, they were extremely concerned about the cuts to the EPA. The President’s budget cuts $2.6 billion from the EPA budget. They were concerned about the impact that that would have. I said, I talked to a mother who talked about her twins and what kind of effect that would have.

The President wants to cut programs like Pollution Prevention Programs, Lead Risk Reduction Programs—which has been a problem in the case of the city of Philadelphia, a problem that we thought we dealt with, but with a cut on the lead reduction program, that would just reinforce the program—the Environmental Protection Agency, Water Quality Research Programs, and the Environmental Education Programs.

Who do you want to help when you cut 31 percent of the EPA budget?

The cuts are tremendous and have a dangerous negative impact on not only our communities of color, but everyone nationwide.

Two weeks ago I sent a letter to EPA Administrator Pruitt outlining how the plan to cut fundamental EPA programs would have a negative impact on our children and most vulnerable in Philadelphia, all across the State and the Nation.

Last week marks 3 weeks—3 years, I should say, since the city of Flint, Michigan, decided to switch their water supply from the Detroit area water system to the Flint River water system, which resulted in lead contamination within the city. It is 3 years later and, sadly, not much has changed for the communities in Flint. Three days is too long to go without clean drinking water. Three years is simply heartbreaking.

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Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the President for his leadership in this matter. He has given us here in this Congress a chance to show leadership in this matter. To work together, to work toward a healthier America, to work toward a safer America, to work toward a clean America. He has given us this opportunity to work together.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the EPA is a powerful tool. It is a tool that we can use to protect our children and the most vulnerable in our communities.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my great colleagues from the Virginia Islands for the great introduction. I really appreciate her leadership, and my colleagues from Congress here.

This discussion that we have been having is relating to the President’s 100 days. And I think it is 102 at this particular point.

The question is that I and members of the Congressional Black Caucus have constantly been raising is: What do we have to lose with President Trump’s cuts to the EPA?
Yet, the President says rather boldly that things are moving in the right direction. I would like to know what community he is talking about. He clearly couldn’t be talking about the community that I am from. Now, more than ever, we need to keep this resistance alive, speak up and speak out for our communities at risk. I will not stand silent while the vital EPA programs that protect and enhance the lives of all Americans are at risk of being cut. Together, we are the voice of the people, so there is no way we will be silent. We will continue this message.

Ms. PLASKETT. I thank the gentleman, Congressman EVANS, for keeping us focused and giving us the information we need to understand what real communities are going through and the environmental justice that we need to be fighting for in this administration. I appreciate that so much.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. McEACHIN), who has been the person who was at the forefront of this evening, bringing issues of environmental justice to our minds and exposing and explaining to the American people the assault on environmental justice that is taking place right now, and appealing to President Trump to be mindful of those communities who are going to be affected by the cuts and by other interest groups that are going after the basic needs that Americans have to stay healthy and stay alive.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is worth noting, on nearly every facet of environmental policy, we are in danger of backsliding irrationally. I want to talk about an area where that danger is especially great and where stakes are especially high. Over much of American history, certain communities have been the victims of profound environmental injustice. Lower income, rural, tribal, and especially minority communities are at an increased risk of exposure to the negative impacts of pollution and climate change.

For far too long, communities of color have been on the front lines of environmental and economic injustice, shouldering the health burdens of living in areas with higher rates of dangerous fossil fuel pollution and lower rates of income and employment.

Mr. Speaker, an African-American child born in the United States has twice the chance of developing asthma than a White child and is four times more likely to die from an asthma attack. This is not a coincidental statistic ginned up for shock and awe but the day-to-day reality that African-American families across the United States have been dealing with for decades.

Rooted in America’s legacy of segregation and redlining communities of color while simultaneously restricting their government services, employment opportunities, and environmental protections, African-American families have historically borne the brunt of the worst health impacts of polluting industries and have received dwindling economic opportunities due to systemic racism. This is why we see coal plants, oil refineries, and natural gas plants, which spew some of the most toxic substances around into the air and contaminate water supplies, are frequently communities of color—communities that have little political or economic power to protect themselves.

These disparities, Mr. Speaker, are unacceptable, and they did not arise in a vacuum. In many cases, they have been the avoidable results of government action or inaction. For example, according to the FY 2015 Annual Environmental Justice Progress Report, ‘Many low-income, minority, and tribal communities are disproportionately impacted by air pollution and are not able to participate in environmental decisions due to barriers preventing them from meaningfully engaging in the political process.’

These voices deserve to be heard. Their silence—particularly their enforced silence—is unacceptable, and it is incompatible with our, small D, democratic values. The practical consequences of that silence are dire: poorer public health, diminished economic opportunity, and decreased quality of life.

To address these grave human and civil rights issues, the environmental justice movement was born—a movement grounded in the belief that all citizens, regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic class, should share fairly in the benefits of environmental resources and the burdens of environmental hazards.

As policymakers, Mr. Speaker, we have a responsibility to embrace that vision—to correct and prevent environmental injustice and to make sure that we do better. It is not enough to avoid repeating past mistakes. True equity requires a recognition that some communities have been hurt much more and, as a result, need more resources and targeted assistance. If we succeed—if we achieve equitable policies that promote environmental justice—our world will become a more fair, more livable, and more sustainable place. But if we fail, public health will suffer. People will lead shorter and harder lives. None of us should be willing to accept that outcome.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is worth noting that the environmental justice movement began in 1982, when North Carolina's toxic waste landfill in Warren County—a poor, rural, majority African-American locality—over the objections of the residents. In the more than 20 years since, many environmental justice organizations have formed. During the Clinton administration, the pursuit of environmental justice became a Federal priority.

Sadly, though, these improvements have not been enough to fix longstanding problems, and, again, the progress we have made is under grave threat. Left unchecked, this administration would devastate communities of color and many other vulnerable groups as well.

Today, the Trump administration is rolling back budgets, cutting offices, obscuring scientific information, and attacking legislation aimed at curbing environmental justice. That is why, on Monday, we witnessed the resignation of Mr. Mustafa Ali from his post as leader of the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Program. For more than two decades, Mr. Ali helped lead our Nation's efforts to secure justice and positive change for vulnerable communities that have seen their public health threatened and the quality of their air, water, and land degraded.

In his letter, Mr. Ali said: ‘Communities of color, low-income communities, and indigenous populations are still struggling to receive equal protections before the law.

These communities, both rural and urban, often live in areas with toxic levels of air pollution or nonexistent water and sewer infrastructure, lead in the drinking water, brownfields from vacant former industrial and commercial sites, Superfund and other hazardous waste sites, as well as other sources of exposure to pollutants.

“Despite the many challenges we face regarding the impacts of pollution and a changing climate, we have just as many effective tools and programs with long track records of assisting vulnerable communities in meeting their goals of improving public health and enhancing the environmental quality of their local communities.”

Mr. Speaker, I know my Democratic colleagues are eager to use these tools to secure just outcomes and better lives for the people we represent. Mr. Speaker, I urge my friends in the majority to join with us.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding, I would like to thank my colleagues for joining me this evening to discuss environmental justice.

Together, we have amplified a simple truth: regardless of the color of your skin, how much money you make, or where you live, every American is entitled to clean air, clean water, and access to our public lands. Again, when we fail to achieve those goals, public health suffers, quality of life suffers, and people lead shorter and harder lives.

We know that climate change is real. We know that it is being caused by human activity. If we fail to act, we know that there are going to be terrible consequences for the entire human community. We also know that vulnerable populations and marginalized communities are poised to suffer the most—just as they have in the past. That kind of environmental
injustice has a long history, and it must stop.

That is why, this past week, I announced the creation of the United for Climate and Environmental Justice Task Force alongside my colleagues, Congresswoman JAYAPAL from Washington State and Congresswoman BARRAGÁN from California. We are going to fight every day to prevent climate change and to mitigate its worst effects. We are going to advocate for policies that correct and prevent environmental injustice. We are going to defend every American’s right to clean air, safe water, and healthy communities. I think I can speak for all three of us when I say that we look forward to working with you all.

Millions of working families are counting on us, Mr. Speaker, as their Representatives in the House and the Senate to serve them and to make wise decisions to improve their lives. We must confront environmental and economic injustices through fierce participation in the planning processes in at-risk areas moving forward. That means demanding more stringent environmental compliance and enforcement that protect communities of color from fossil fuel pollution and demanding greater investments in clean energy deployment in historically African-American communities that will create union and family-wage jobs with upward mobility.

I know my colleagues on this side of the aisle are committed to making this change, and I challenge our friends in the majority to join us. I urge them to support greater transparency, objectivity, and outreach in environmental policymaking. I urge them to support processes that improve two-way communication between decisionmakers and the people their decisions affect. I urge them to help ensure that the decisionmakers are confronting the full effects of their choices—including how consequences are distributed and by whom they are borne.

Protecting the environment, Mr. Speaker—creation care—is my passion. I commit to you that I will continue fighting each and every day to address climate change and sea level rise, push for renewable energy and green technologies, and do everything I can to leave this planet a better place for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I am an Eagle Scout, and I know that we are supposed to leave the campground better than the way we found it. The time is now to continue fighting for perhaps the most important issue of the 21st century—the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for her indulgence.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. McEACHIN for his passion and for his commitment to these issues of environmental justice.

Particularly in the Virgin Islands, we know that climate change is real. We feel it, and we see it in how we operate and how our environment is changing, whether it be mosquitoes and Zika, before that chikungunya and dengue. We know that the effects of climate change are impacting our health and impacting the livelihoods of our environment.

The Congressional Black Caucus supports policies that ensure that all Americans also have access to a clean and healthy environment. Studies have long shown an unsettling correlation between race and the location of hazardous waste facilities. For example, a 1983 Government Accountability Office study found that 75 percent of hazardous waste landfills in eight southeastern States were located in predominantly poor and minority communities.

The places where minorities live, work, and learn are significantly compromised by air, water, land, soil, noise, and light pollutants. Black Americans and other minorities are disproportionately affected and our health is directly linked to environmental and toxic waste. We cannot take away funding to support the eradication of these health hazards. We must continue to push for that.

We are not here as the Congressional Black Caucus simply to disparage our President. We are not here to point out his failings. But we would be doing a grave disservice to the people that we represent, not just minorities but all Americans, if we do not stand up and discuss the issues that are of grave concern to us, to ask for support and funding, to ask that there not be a rollback on many of the gains that we have had that have supported and helped our community.

At the beginning of the 115th Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus launched: “What Did Trump Do?” It was a rapid-response messaging document used to inform our external stakeholders. This “What Did Trump Do?” is a special #staywoke edition. We are listing 100 actions President Trump and his administration have taken over the last 100 days. It was developed by 78 million Americans that the CBC collectively represent, including 17 million African Americans, as well as millions of Americans we do not represent.

We want this information to be before the American people to show that work just yet. We talked about environmental areas. I am going to list some of the things that have happened in the 100 days that we need to be cognizant of, that we need to make sure that these things do not take place, and that they not become embedded in this great America in which we live.

On February 28, Attorney General Sessions said that the DOJ would pull back from using its legal authority to monitor police departments responsible for repeated instances of police misconduct and abuses by backing away from legal commitment first enacted into law by Representative John CONyers as part of the 1994 crime reform legislation. Sessions sent a signal to the African-American community that the police misconduct laws will not be equally and fully enforced. On that same day, the President signed a bill that rolled back a regulation restricting gun purchases by the mentally ill through a use of background checks.

Attorney General Sessions rescinded the Obama-era order to reduce the use of privately operated prisons. The use of privately operated prisons creates a financial incentive to lock people up using African Americans, Latinos, and poor people. In addition, in comparison to the government-operated prisons, privately operated prisons are less safe and secure for both staff and inmates, don’t provide the same level of rehabilitative services like educational programs and job trainings which increase the likelihood that those who are released from prison will return to a life of crime.

Finally, although privately operated prisons are said to be more cost effective than government prisons, they are not because those that are in those prisons will continue to, in many instances, come back causing a burden not just on the American people and taxpayers but on the families and the communities in which those individuals reside.

Other things that have happened in these first 100 days: President Trump appointed Candace E. Jackson as Acting Assistant Secretary for civil rights at the Department of Education. Ms. Jackson once said that affirmative action promotes racial discrimination and claims she was discriminated against for being White. Secretary DeVos hired Robert Eitel, an official with deep ties to the for-profit college industry, to be a Special Assistant to the Department of Education. This hire presents a serious conflict of interest and raises questions about whether Eitel can put students’ needs above the interest of his former colleagues.

President Trump’s proposed budget for the Department of Education hurts low-income students from pre-K through college by undermining public education through the elimination of afterschool and teacher-support programs and diverting Federal funds to private school vouchers, eliminating support for college students, gutting Federal workstudy, and slashing critical funding for Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and Pell grants.

All of these cuts would have severe consequences for our Nation’s students—not just African Americans but Latinos and students in large urban areas. No afterschool programs, no support for teachers—what will our children do?

What will those families do that need those children and that support?
On March 9, EPA Administrator Pruitt said that he did not think that carbon dioxide was the primary driver of global warming even though that is the public position of EPA, NOAA, and NASA.

We can go on and on. We have a document with over 100 actions that have been taken in the last 100 days.

In housing and homeownership, President Trump’s proposed budget would cut the Department of Housing and Urban Development by $6 billion. HUD is responsible for providing housing assistance to extremely low-income families and the homeless and reinvesting in American cities and counties.

Those same proposed budgets would end the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which assists families with energy costs, including home energy bills, energy crises, weatherization, and energy-related home repair.

There are many examples of what has happened. We give these examples not merely to degrade what has happened with this administration, but to show that work must still be done and that we, as Americans, must stay woke to what is happening in this country. We must keep our eyes vigilant and on the prize and ensure that Americans will see what is really happening and not be moved by the media, by the tweets, but see actual facts.

We are working in real facts here to let you know what needs to be done and that we, the Congressional Black Caucus, as Members of Congress, are asking our colleagues across the aisle and the Democratic Caucus to support us and to support the issues that are relevant not just to African Americans, but to all Americans this day.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any executive branch material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to expose the cavalier disregard for global justice by our President during his first 100 days in office. In a short period of time, President Donald J. Trump made clear his agenda—anti-climate, anti-science, and anti-fact. The current administration is on a fast-track to deny decades of progress and set our nation back in the effort to combat climate change. The Clean Power Plan, which established comprehensive carbon emission standards and put the United States at the forefront of global environmental stewardship, was one of the first order of business of Trump’s technological and scientific innovation to make America a leader in greener, cleaner, sustainable energy production and consumption. President Trump has used his office to support the interests of corporations and interests in big oil and coal on the backs of hard-working Americans.

Furthermore, the current administration has promulgated efforts to expand environmentally detrimental offshore drilling, allow the dumping of mining waste, and potentially force an exit from the 2015 Paris Agreement which brought the world’s powers together in agreement to curb our collective carbon emissions. The proposed budget goes even further in rejecting evidenced-based policy-making. From proposals to cripple the Environmental Protection Agency’s roll-out critical programs at the Department of Energy like ARPA-E, this administration has abandoned our nation’s effort to protect our planet and be a global leader.

Our administration’s blatant disregard toward the health, economic, and national security risks associated with global climate change is shortsighted and will only further endanger Americans’ health, security, and economic stability. While we will all suffer from the consequences of short-sighted federal policy, the heaviest burden is bound to fall on those already marginalized.

Minorities and working class families are already struggling to make ends meet, but study after study shows they are the most vulnerable to environmental injustices. Subject to downwind and downstream pollution, children and families who are economically disadvantaged often lack the political voice to keep industries from polluting their communities and regimes. Take Flint, Michigan for example, where young children have been exposed to toxic levels of lead from their drinking water. That is wrong and should be unheard of in the world’s most powerful nation.

I urge my colleagues to consider the kind of country we want our children to live in. Where is the freedom in living in a community where there is no access to clean drinking water, or a city where children are forced to stay inside because the air is so polluted? We can and must do better, Mr. Speaker. The actions the President has set forth thus far do nothing to Make America Great Again; rather, his first one hundred days has only made America more polluted, less safe, and less secure.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand firm in their resolve to hold this and future administrations accountable to keeping our air clean, our water safe, and our environment sustainable for future generations. We have far too much to lose, Mr. Speaker, and future generations deserve our better judgement.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to: Mr. MARINO (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of a family medical issue.

**SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED**

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 496. An act to repeal the rule issued by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration entitled ‘‘Metropolitan Planning Organizations Reorganization, Coordinating and Planning Area Reform’’. JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on April 28, 2017, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 99. Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly, at 10 a.m., the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at 10 a.m. 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:

1221. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Assistant Outpatient Treatment Pilot Program for Fiscal Year 2016 Report to Congress, pursuant to Public Law 113-93, Sec. 224, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1222. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Office of the Under Secretary for Acquisitions, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 05-17, informing of an intent to sign the Memorandum of Agreement Between the Department of Defense and the King of Sweden, pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Executive Order 13637, 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. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services, H.R. 910. A bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-102). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services, H.R. 1366. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to terminate an exemption for companies located in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and any
other possession of the United States (Rept. 115–103). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1322. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 to require an annual review by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the annual business plan within that form that is held pursuant to such Act; with an amendment (Rept. 115–104). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 1342. A bill to establish the 400 Years of African-American History Commission for other purposes (Rept. 115–105). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BYRNE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 296. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1180) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector; providing for proceedings during the period from May 5, 2017, through May 15, 2017; and for other purposes (Rept. 115–106). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. AGUILAR:
H.R. 2258. A bill to require that certain standards for commercial driver’s licenses applicable to former members of the armed services who served in Iraq and Afghanistan also apply to current members of the armed services or reserves; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):
H.R. 2259. A bill to amend the Peace Corps Act to expand services and benefits for volunteers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Education and the Workforce, for subsequent determination by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CICILLINE:
H.R. 2260. A bill to improve college affordability; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself and Mr. BUCANAN):
H.R. 2261. A bill to improve the ability of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Coast Guard, and coastal States to sustain healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems by maintaining and sustaining their capabilities relating to oil spill preparedness, response, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. WELLS of South Carolina, Mrs. DÍAZ-BALART, Mr. KILDNER, Mr. MEeks, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. SWEWILL of Alabama, Mr. VINORI, Mr. McGovern, Mr. CLARK of New York, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. RICHMOND):
H.R. 2262. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to require certain consumer reports to be furnished to credit score providers when providing consumers with a free annual consumer report; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BILLIRAKIS (for himself, Miss GONZALEZ-COLON of Puerto Rico, Mrs. RADERWAGEN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SARBIAN, and Ms. FLASKETT):
H.R. 2263. A bill to provide for greater transparency and information with respect to Federal expenditures under the Medicaid and CHIP Programs of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. DAVIS of Georgia, Mr. POCAH, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GOGGETT, Ms. BROWLEY of California, Mr. SCHRAEDER, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Ms. TENNEY):
H.R. 2264. A bill to improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing by designating and supporting manufacturing communities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York (for himself and Mr. SWALWELL of California):
H.R. 2265. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow small businesses to defer the payment of certain employment taxes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. CICILLINE:
H.R. 2266. A bill to amend title 28 of the United States Code to authorize the appointment of additional bankruptcy judges; and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania):
H.R. 2267. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, and Mr. ROSKAM:
H.R. 2267. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for repayment by the Secretary of Direct Loans to the parents of disabled students; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:
H.R. 2267. A bill to permit employees to request, and to ensure employers consider requests for, flexible work terms and conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PASCHENEL, Mr. TWONSON, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HURFFMAN, Mr. KEATING, Mr. BRYER, Mr. SERHAM, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. GILLILAND, Mr. QUISENBERRY, Mr. TONKO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. POCAN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SIEGEL, Ms. MCGOVERN, Ms. PANNIS, Ms. MENG, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mr. HASTINGS):
H.R. 2272. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore mining on the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, North Atlantic, and Straits of Florida planning areas; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PERRY (for himself, Mr. NORTON, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. SINKENBERGER, Mr. HENNINGER, Mr. STEWART, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. WAGNER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. O’ROURKE, and Mr. PETERS):
H.R. 2273. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to exclude cannabidiol and cannabidiol-rich plants from the definition of marijuana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PETERS:
H.R. 2274. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to provide for extended periods relating to the environmental review and determination of construction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. POLIS:
H.R. 2275. A bill to require employers to provide pay stubs, codify the Executive order relating to Government contracting, provide greater oversight of executive compensation and restrictions on sales of stocks, clarify the definition of a supervisor, and enhance penalties for violations of workforce safety standards; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas):
H.R. 2276. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of audiologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing audiology services under the Medicare program, to authorize additional audiology services for coverage under the Medicare program, and to enable beneficiaries to have their choice of a qualified audiologist to provide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the...
Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned:

By Mr. SLAGHTER:
H. R. 2277. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit Members of Congress from receiving a discounted price in certain private offerings of securities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TIPTON:
H. R. 2278. A bill to extend the authorization of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 relating to disposal site in Mesa County, Colorado; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. TSONGAS (for herself, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MULCAHY, and Mr. FARENTHOLD):
H. R. 2279. A bill to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to the U.S. Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society, in recognition of the ceaseless efforts of American aircrew members to escape captivity and evade capture by the enemy forces in occupied countries during our foreign wars, and the brave service of the organizations and patriotic nationals of those foreign countries who assisted them; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. MEeks, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, and Ms. VELAZQUEZ):
H. Res. 301. A resolution expressing support for designation of May 30 as “National Barter Syndrome Day”; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. VEASEY:
H. Res. 302. A resolution expressing support for designation of May 2017 as “Health and Fitness Month”; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

MEMORIALS
Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:
27. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 9, calling upon the U.S. Air Force, the Administration and Congress to thoroughly and conscientiously evaluate the utility and efficacy of basing a squadron of F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter aircraft at Gowen Field in Boise, in accordance with a continued flying mission for the Idaho Air National Guard; to the Committee on Armed Services.
28. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 7, urging President Trump, Secretary Price and Congress to take the following action: Allow individual states to be granted the right to determine the availability and sale of nonsubsidized health insurance plans in accordance with health insurance protection; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.
29. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 2, supporting actions by the Governor and the Attorney General to oppose passage and introduction of salmon or steelhead above Hells Canyon Dam, that are necessary to protect Idaho's sovereignty, including its water and property rights; to the Committee on Natural Resources.
30. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 4, encouraging western states and the federal government to establish cooperative and coordinated efforts with the State of Idaho to prevent, to whatever extent possible, through efforts including inspections, decontamination policies, enforcement of invasive species laws and rapid response protocols, further spread of the dreissenid mussels, and containment where established, and to make all time as viable tools for eradication; to the Committee on Natural Resources.
31. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 8, urging Congress to appropriate $8 million of the authorized $20 million for FY 2018 to the four Northwest states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, according to the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIN); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
32. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 6, urging that United States consumers and businesses be enabled to compete freely and trade fairly in foreign and domestic markets on a strictly level playing field, jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Education and the Workforce.
33. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 5, and supporting the Department of Energy, the Administration and Congress to identify, commit and sustain the necessary funding to allow the Department of Energy to continue to make progress at meeting its cleanup milestones to benefit the citizens of Idaho and its environment; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Science, Space, and Technology.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
Under clause 3 of rule XII, Mr. PERLMUTTER introduced a bill (H.R. 2280) for the relief of Arturo Hernandez-Garcia; which was referred 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. AGUILA:
H. R. 2258. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. POE of Texas:
H. R. 2259. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CARBAJAL:
H. R. 2260. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:
H. R. 2261. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws . . . to the several States, and with the Indian Tribes:"

By Mr. BLIRAKIS:
H. R. 2263. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8, clause 1

By Mr. CICILLINE:
H. R. 2264. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8

By Mr. COLLINS of New York:
H. R. 2265. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. CONYERS:
H. R. 2266. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8, clause 4

By Mr. CROWLEY:
H. R. 2267. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:
H. R. 2268. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:
H. R. 2269. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8, clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:
H. R. 2270. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8, clause 3

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:
H. R. 2271. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8, clause 3

By Mr. PALLONE:
H. R. 2272. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8, clause 3

By Mr. PERRY:
H. R. 2273. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PETERS:
H. R. 2274. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8
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By Mr. POLIS:
H.R. 2275.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:
H.R. 2276.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, impost, and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States
By Ms. SLAUGHTER:
H.R. 2277.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States
By Mr. TIPPTON:
H.R. 2278.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 4 Section 3 Clause 2: The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.
By Ms. TSONGAS:
H.R. 2279.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mr. PERLMUTTER:
H.R. 2280.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 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. 30: Mr. Weber of Texas.
H.R. 37: Mr. Weiser of Texas.
H.R. 38: Mr. Palijin and Mr. Estes of Kansas.
H.R. 60: Mr. Tipton, Ms. Kelly of Illinois, Ms. Vázquez, and Mr. Langevin.
H.R. 116: Mr. Tipton.
H.R. 453: Mr. Nolan.
H.R. 519: Mr. Perlmutter.
H.R. 544: Mr. Courtney.
H.R. 559: Mr. Francis Rooney of Florida.
H.R. 619: Mr. Crawford.
H.R. 669: Mr. Nolan.
H.R. 721: Mr. Lawson of Florida.
H.R. 747: Mr. Smith of Missouri, Mr. Cardenas, Mr. Stivers, Ms. McCollum, and Mr. Demian.
H.R. 749: Mr. Fortenberry.
H.R. 759: Ms. Lofgren and Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 807: Mr. Connolly.
H.R. 809: Mr. Gosar.
H.R. 820: Mr. Roskam, Mr. Peterson, and Mr. Donovan.
H.R. 910: Mr. Messer.
H.R. 919: Mr. Smucker.
H.R. 1002: Mr. Costello of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1005: Mr. McGovern, Mr. Kuster of New Hampshire, Mr. Wittman, and Mr. Garbarino.
H.R. 1014: Mr. Raskin.
H.R. 1017: Ms. Esty of Connecticut, Mr. Paulsen, and Mr. Connolly.
H.R. 1035: Mr. Bacon.
The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

**PRAYER**

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

*Let us pray.*

God of our fathers and mothers, continue to lead us with the power of Your wisdom and might. Empower our Senators to live this day with honor. Increase their faith, hope, and love that they may receive Your promises and claim them to accomplish Your purposes for our world.

Lord, inspire our Senators today with the music of Your wisdom that through their labors, they may bring hope from despair and joy from sadness. Teach them to celebrate, even in the darkness, because You are the God who gives us strength to accomplish more than we can ask or imagine.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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

**RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The majority leader is recognized.

**GOVERNMENT FUNDING LEGISLATION**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the funding bill announced last night will allow us to make critical advances to rebuild our military, strengthen our border, and continue providing relief to communities that have struggled for too long against the opioid epidemic. These are important priorities for Congress and for the President. They reflect a lot of hard work. They promise to positively and fully impact the lives of the men and women we represent. The funding bill also includes another critical priority I have long fought for: protecting healthcare for thousands of retired coal miners.

This legislation would allow us to take the initial step needed to begin rebuilding our military. It contains a downpayment on defense that will support forward-deployed forces in places like the Korean Peninsula and Eastern Europe and operations against adversaries like ISIL and the Taliban as we work to secure the funds that will be necessary to improve readiness and restore munitions and ammunition.

We know that more must be done to meet our global commitments, and by providing some of the resources that will be necessary for a sustained rebuilding campaign—one we can hope will earn bipartisan support—we can take an important step forward.

This legislation will also allow us to substantially strengthen the border. It contains the largest increase in border security resources in a decade, allowing us to address high-priority security needs, crack down on illegal border crossings, and strengthen the border with everything from upgraded physical infrastructure to high-tech biometric and surveillance technology. We know more must be done to secure our border, and by finally delivering more of the resources and tools necessary to secure it, we can take an important step forward.

This legislation will also allow us to fight back against the opioid and heroin crisis while bolstering medical innovation and treatments at the same time. It contains funding for programs Congress authorized last year in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, continued funding for the 21st Century Cures Act—also passed last year—to attack opioid abuse, plus additional funds to combat the prescription opioid and heroin crisis that has devastated communities across the Nation.

We know more must be done to heal the communities that are hurting, and by funding the fight against today's epidemic, along with a fight for tomorrow's medical solutions, we can take an important step in the right direction. My home State of Kentucky has been particularly hard-hit by this epidemic, and helping our families and communities overcome this assault remains a top priority for me.

On another priority of mine addressed in the funding bill, I am particularly proud to announce that through this legislation, we have secured a permanent extension of healthcare benefits for thousands of retired coal miners and their families in States like Kentucky. Over the past few years, I have met with numerous Kentucky miners about this important issue, and I have been proud to lead efforts to help these families keep their healthcare. Now I am pleased to report that this spending legislation incorporates language from a bill I introduced earlier this year and will enact a permanent extension of miner healthcare benefits. I am proud to have secured this important provision as we put together the final package, and I will continue to fight to provide relief for coal communities going forward.

Moreover, this funding bill also includes additional assistance for troubled coal-mining communities and displaced coal workers, and it promotes an “all of the above” energy policy that prioritizes coal, natural gas, and nuclear research.

It is disappointing that our Democratic colleagues blocked last year's efforts to move individual appropriations bills under the regular order, but I am pleased that they have now agreed to a solution that will advance many of the
priorities of the American people, Congress, and the President.

The funding legislation announced last night, which incorporates the 11 regular appropriations bills remaining from last year, is the product of a great deal of work in committee last year and subsequent bipartisan, bicameral discussions this year. I want to thank all of those who put in long hours and continued to negotiate in good faith so that we could arrive at this strong agreement.

In particular, I wish to recognize Chairman COCHRAN, the leadership of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, and their staffs. They worked to ensure that the process was bipartisan and bicameral every step of the way. Because of their efforts, we now have an agreement that both sides should support.

Before we take up the bill later this week, I encourage all Senators to review it in detail, which includes more information on the priorities I just mentioned, and then let’s keep working together to pass it later this week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar Nos. 39 through 51 and all nominations placed on the Secretary’s desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the Record; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

THE NAVY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral
Rear Adm. (lh) Richard A. Brown
Rear Adm. (lh) James S. Bynum
Rear Adm. (lh) Daryl L. Caudle
Rear Adm. (lh) John B. Correll
Rear Adm. (lh) Randy B. Cortes
Rear Adm. (lh) Daniel H. Fillion
Rear Adm. (lh) Collin P. Green
Rear Adm. (lh) Mary M. Jackson
Rear Adm. (lh) James W. Kilby
Rear Adm. (lh) James J. Malloy
Rear Adm. (lh) John W. Tammen, Jr.

The following officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)
Capt. Kevin M. Jones
Capt. Thomas J. Moreau

THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 623:

To be major general
Brig. Gen. David G. Bellon
Brig. Gen. Patrick J. Hermesmann

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general
Col. Michael S. Martin

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general
Col. James H. Adams, III
Col. Eric E. Austin
Col. Jay M. Barger
Col. Michael J. Borgschulte
Col. William J. Bowers
Col. Michael S. Martin
Col. Dimitri Henry
Col. Keith D. Reventlow
Col. Roberta L. Shea
Col. Benjamin T. Watson
Col. Christian F. Wortman

THE ARMY

The following named officers 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. Bryan P. Fenton

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 major general
Col. Mathias W. Winter

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 vice admiral
Rear Adm. David H. Lewis
Rear Adm. Mathias W. Winter
Rear Adm. (lh) Steven L. Parode

To be rear admiral
Rear Adm. (lh) John F. Polowczyk

PN144 AIR FORCE nominations (68) beginning EDWARD R. ANDERSON, III, and ending RAMON YAMBO ARIAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN174 AIR FORCE nominations (488) beginning PATRICK M. ALBRITTON, and ending RAY A. ZUNIGA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

PN252 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning NEIL R. COPELAND, and ending OLIVIA M. VAUGHAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN253 AIR FORCE nominations of Allen R. Henderson, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN262 AIR FORCE nomination of George L. Burnett, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN264 AIR FORCE nomination of Dion R. Dixon, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN255 AIR FORCE nomination of Rebecca A. Lipe, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN256 AIR FORCE nomination of Michael N. Tesfay, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN257 AIR FORCE nomination of Megan G. K. Steele, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN258 AIR FORCE nominations (141) beginning RYAN W. ABNER, and ending BREANCA G. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN259 AIR FORCE nominations (76) beginning ALLEN SETH ABRAMS, and ending THOMAS BENJAMIN WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN260 AIR FORCE nominations (18) beginning CHAD A. BELLAMY, and ending ANDREW L. THORNLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN261 AIR FORCE nominations (51) beginning AIMÉE L. ALVIAIRD, and ending DAVID A. WHITEHORN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN262 AIR FORCE nominations (40) beginning JASON S. WRACHFORD, and ending MAUREEN SCHELLE WOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN263 AIR FORCE nominations (6) beginning HECTOR L. COLONCOLON, and ending KEVIN L. LOCKETT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN264 AIR FORCE nominations (33) beginning BETHEL M. HAYKAN, and ending WILLIAM T. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN265 AIR FORCE nominations (14) beginning MICHAEL A. BLACKBURN, and ending JASON S. WRACHFORD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

IN THE ARMY

PN145 ARMY nomination of Scott C. Appling, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN146 ARMY nomination of Patricia L. George, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN138 ARMY nomination of Adam J. Points, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN149 ARMY nomination of Larry G. Workman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN150 ARMY nomination of Robert J. Durlap, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN151 ARMY nomination of Wayne O. Dehane, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN152 ARMY nomination of Johnathan T. Parchem, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN153 ARMY nominations (883) beginning JACOB P. ABBALON, and ending GO10445, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN154 ARMY nominations (545) beginning MARK P. ADAMS, and ending GO10388, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN155 ARMY nominations (483) beginning AMIR A. ABUAKEEL, and ending D013352, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN156 ARMY nominations (85) beginning VANESSA R. ASMUS, and ending D010097, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN157 ARMY nomination of Michael C. Flynn, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN158 ARMY nomination of Steve L. Martinelli, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN161 ARMY nominations (127) beginning KENNETH A'HORRIO, and ending PAUL W. ZIEGERLER, III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN162 ARMY nominations (210) beginning TOLULOPE O. ADEYEMI, and ending DO10044, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN163 ARMY nominations (77) beginning PAUL A. PARCHEM, and ending D012628, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN164 ARMY nominations (26) beginning RACHEL A. ACCLACIA, and ending LAUREN E. WHITE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN165 ARMY nomination of Christopher J. Brown, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN166 ARMY nominations (2) beginning DANIEL B. KING, and ending TODD E. WADSWORTH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.
and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2196 ARMY nomination of Christopher C. Ostby, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2197 ARMY nomination of Calvin E. Fish, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2198 ARMY nomination of Aaron E. Lane, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2199 ARMY nomination of Damien Boffa, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2200 ARMY nomination of Randy D. Dorsey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2201 ARMY nominations (2) beginning BENJAMIN R. SMITH, and ending STALIN R. SUBRAMANIAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2202 ARMY nomination of Mark W. Hopkins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2203 ARMY nominations (7) beginning THOMAS R. MATFELSKI, and ending JOSHUA H. WALKER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2204 ARMY nomination of Mark B. Howell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2205 ARMY nomination of Julio Colon-Colmenares, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2206 ARMY nominations (3) beginning JASON S. BULLOCK, and ending GERALD A. NUNZIATO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2207 ARMY nomination of Jennifer A. McAfee, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2208 ARMY nomination of Nina R. Copeland, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2209 ARMY nomination of Calvin E. Townsend, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2210 ARMY nomination of Scott A. McDonald, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2211 ARMY nomination of Thomas P. Lukins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.
P2212 ARMY nomination of Scott M. McFarland, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.
P2213 ARMY nomination of Jeffrey A. Miller, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.
P2214 ARMY nomination of Joseph M. Kilonzo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.
P2215 ARMY nomination of Brandi A. Schuyler, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.
P2216 ARMY nomination of David J. Kaczmarek, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.
P2217 ARMY nomination of Jonathan A. Johnson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.
P2218 ARMY nominations (22) beginning JAMES A. BENSON, and ending WILLIAM M. YANEK, II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.
P2219 ARMY nomination of Crystal J. Smith, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.
P2220 ARMY nomination of Dana B. Love, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.
P2221 ARMY nomination of Douglas A. McKewan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.
P2222 ARMY nomination of David M. Wallace, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.
P2223 ARMY nomination of Lisa M. Patton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.
P2224 ARMY nomination of Basil J. Catanzaro, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.
P2225 MARINE CORPS nominations (17) beginning DANIEL E. ALGER, JR., and ending JESSICA M. WALL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2226 MARINE CORPS nominations (712) beginning ANIS A. ABUZEID, and ending CRAIG A. ZORRI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2227 MARINE CORPS nomination (9) beginning DANIEL W. ANNUNZIATA, and ending LEAH R. PARROTT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2228 MARINE CORPS nomination (9) beginning JAMES R. Reusse, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2229 MARINE CORPS nominations (329) beginning JOSE M. ACEVEDO, and ending FRANCISCO X. ZAVAFA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2230 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning JENNY CENTENO, JR., and ending JAMES L. SHELTON, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2231 MARINE CORPS nomination of Richard K. O'Brien, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2232 MARINE CORPS nominations (7) beginning MICHAEL J. ALLEN, and ending CHRISTOPHER T. HAMBRICK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2233 MARINE CORPS nominations (5) beginning JEREMY T. FLANNERY, and ending TYSON E. PETERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2234 MARINE CORPS nominations (8) beginning MICHAEL M. DODD, and ending ERIC A. SHARP, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2235 MARINE CORPS nominations (9) beginning JOHN W. GLINSKY, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2236 MARINE CORPS nomination of Keith A. Stevenson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2237 MARINE CORPS nominations (5) beginning JEREMY T. FLANNERY, and ending MICHAEL A. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2238 MARINE CORPS nomination of Stuart M. Barker, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2239 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning RICHARD CANEDO, and ending DONALD R. WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2240 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning JASON C. FLORES, which were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2241 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning JEREMY T. FLANNERY, and ending KEVIN M. TSCHERCH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2242 MARINE CORPS nominations (7) beginning JOSHUA P. BAHR, and ending ROBERT J. SNODDY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2243 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning JOHN T. BROWN, JR., and ending JULIUS G. JONES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2244 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning ELI J. BRESSLER, and ending ROBERT R. STRAND, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2245 MARINE CORPS nominations (6) beginning THADDEUS W. WILDE, and ending BRAD J. WILDE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.
P2246 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning DUALE A. GUMBS, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

IN THE NAVY

PN167 NAVY nomination of Aaron B. Mayer, which was received by the Senate and...
the previous order, the leadership time will now resume legislative session.

April 6, 2017.

Gilliver, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

Winslow, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

MAUER BISCOTTI, III, and ending ADAM J. WHITLOW, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

RACHEL E. CARTER, and ending KEVIN D. J. WHITLOW, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

Salles, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2017.

BRANDON M. ZOSS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 27, 2017.

Linnell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN238 NAVY nomination of John J. Kitt, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN239 NAVY nominations (5) beginning HORACIO G. TAN, and ending DERRICK A. THOMAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

PN290 NAVY nomination of Reann S. Mommens, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 6, 2017.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to receive the consideration of the Clayton nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jay Clayton, of New York, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2021.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

TAX REFORM

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, last Wednesday, the Trump administration unveiled the outlines of a tax reform plan, and, predictably, the plan has met with both praise and scorn from the usual sectors. Regardless of where the people might come down on the specifics of the President’s plan, those who have been breathing tax reform—hopefully those from both parties—should be pleased to see the President of the United States fully engaged in this effort.

For 6 years now, I have been beating the drum on tax reform. I have sought to make the case for reform here on the floor, in public forums and events, and in private conversations, and I haven’t been alone. Indeed, Members from both parties have acknowledged the need to fix our broken tax system and have sought to move the ball forward on reform.

One thing I have said throughout this endeavor is that tax reform, if it is going to be successful, will require Presidential leadership, and that was not a political statement on my part. With those statements, I wasn’t simply calling for the election of a Republican President; on the contrary, I repeatedly implored President Obama to engage with Congress on tax reform but really to no avail.

As of now, we finally have a President who is willing to lead in this effort. Once again, regardless of where anyone stands with regard to this economic concern, I believe there is a national consensus that our current tax code is cumbersome and outdated, and what the American people want is a tax code that will promote hard work, help families get ahead, and reduce the tax burden on millions of middle-class families.

Clearly, as the effort moves forward, Congress and the administration will have to fill in the specifics. We will need to see how the numbers work out and where the votes are for any particular reform proposal. This is going to take some time, but, as the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I believe we can be ready to move in relatively short order. I intend to work closely with my colleagues on the Finance Committee, our leadership here in the Senate, leaders in the House, and outside partners of the administration to finalize a tax reform package and get it across the finish line. The last major tax overhaul in the United States was more than 30 years ago, so we have a once-in-a-lifetime or once-in-a-generation opportunity in front of us, and I intend to do all I can to ensure that we make the most of it.

When I say “we,” I am not simply referring to Republicans in Congress and the White House; I am referring to anyone who recognizes the problems in our current tax system and is willing to do the necessary work to address them. My hope is that this will be a bipartisan exercise. By and large, Republicans appear ready and willing to work with the President to get tax reform done, and I am working to find some willing partners among my friends on the other side of the aisle.

I have said many times that tax reform should not have to be a partisan exercise. Our current tax system imposes undue burdens and undue hardships on Republican and Democratic voters alike. Therefore, both Republicans and Democrats in Congress should be willing to relieve these hardships, and, as I have stated here on the floor on numerous occasions, I am willing to work with anyone, Republican or Democrat, to make this effort successful. That said, I haven’t been all that encouraged by the rhetoric we have been hearing from our friends on the other side of the aisle on these issues. Setting aside statements we have heard about the policies in the President’s plan or
elsewhere, the Senate Democratic leadership at times seems bound and determined to ensure that no Member of their party engages on these issues.

Most recently, the Senate minority leader has insisted on two conditions before agreeing to move forward with Republicans on tax reform.

The first condition is that Republicans commit to not moving tax reform through the budget reconciliation process. This is an odd demand, one that is, I believe, unprecedented in the modern history of tax policy. Certainly, the reconciliation process makes it easier to move reform through Congress on a partisan basis, but, historically speaking, most major tax bills that have moved through reconciliation have had bipartisan support. There is no reason, if agreements are reached on policy, that Democrats could not agree to support a tax reform package moved through reconciliation, so taking it categorically off the table before discussions even begin seems, at best, counterintuitive.

History tells us that reconciliation need not be partisan. In fact, when Republicans have had control of both Houses of Congress and the White House, they have enacted tax legislation bills that have enjoyed some Senate Democratic support.

It is also worth noting that at various points in the recent past, Republicans have stayed at the negotiating table, participating in formal and informal discussions on major policy matters with reconciliation instructions in place and without any assurances that reconciliation would not be used. Are Democrats going to be more amenable to compromising on policy if reconciliation is not on the table? It is hard to see why that would be the case.

Taking reconciliation off the table would really only make it easier for Democrats to prevent any kind of tax reform from moving forward.

So, essentially, what some of my Democratic colleagues are saying is that before they will even enter into talks on tax reform, they want us to ensure upfront that they will have the ability to block the bill once it is brought up. As I said, that is an odd demand, and not one you would expect to hear from someone who is willing to negotiate in good faith.

My colleagues’ second precondition for working on tax reform is that President Trump release his tax returns. Like their first demand, this one makes me doubt whether the Senate Democratic leadership really wants to be constructive on tax reform. This is a political demand, pure and simple, likely poll-tested and focus-grouped to uncovering conflicts of interest in tax reform. If it is, it is a horribly misguided strategy.

After all, tax reform were to succeed, the President is only one small part of the equation. There are 435 Members of the House of Representatives and 100 Senators, all of whom would be called upon to vote either for or against the tax reform bill, and whether a Member of Congress supports or opposes a particular bill, a conflict of interest could potentially influence that decision, just as much as the President’s decision to sign or veto a bill. Yet I don’t hear anyone from the other side of the aisle demanding the release of the tax returns of every Member of Congress before we can even start working on tax reform. That has never been a prerequisite for working on tax legislation in the past, and it certainly should not be a prerequisite in the future.

In any event, despite these unreasonable demands, I will once again state that I am more than willing to work with my Democratic colleagues on tax reform, and I sincerely hope at least some of them will be willing to do so. I have been in the Senate for a while now, and I have sufficiently demonstrated my willingness to put partisan differences aside and reach across the aisle.

Make no mistake, I believe Republicans can move a tax reform package through the Senate using the procedural mechanism in place that would allow us to do that. But my strong preference would be to find a bipartisan pathway forward, and I hope that can be achieved.

Speaking more broadly, whether we move forward on a partisan or bipartisan basis, being successful on tax reform is going to require that we practice the art of the doable. There are a lot of ideas out there on tax reform and no shortage of competing interests. I have my own ideas and proposals that I have been working on for a number of years that I would like to see included in the final package. However, no idea should be considered more important than the broader goals of tax reform. That goes for my ideas and those of anyone else in Congress or in the administration.

There is a great deal of consensus among Republicans on the most important tax reform policies and principles. In fact, I would say we agree on roughly 80 percent of the key issues, which is a good starting point. I will not go into specifics today, but there are some high-profile items in the remaining 20 percent, and there are some differences of opinion regarding most of those items.

Bridging that gap and finding the path forward is going to take some serious negotiation and compromise. My hope is that people will be willing to adjust their expectations and bend on their preferences in order to achieve success in this very important endeavor. Speaking for myself, I can say that I would be willing to do so, and I have confidence that my colleagues who will also be playing leadership roles in this effort are similarly willing. Perhaps most importantly, I believe the President and his advisers in the administration are willing to make the necessary compromises to finally make tax reform a success.

This is the closest we have been to success in tax reform in the past three decades. I hope both parties, both Chambers, both sides of Pennsylvania Avenue are up to that challenge.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING LEGISLATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, late last night, due to the hard work and diligence of the Appropriations Committees on both sides of the aisle in both Houses, the staff of the leadership, and so many others, we were able to come to a bipartisan agreement on a bill to fund the government through September. Most importantly, this agreement takes the threat of a government shutdown off the table. It is also a good agreement for the American people.

The bill ensures taxpayer dollars are not used to fund an ineffective border wall; it excludes over 160 poison pill programs that the middle class relies on, like education, infrastructure, and medical research.

It includes a permanent extension for health benefits for miners. Here, I want to praise—and I can’t give enough praise—to the Senator from West Virginia, Joe Manchin, who was relentless even after disappointment after disappointment, at holding the Senate’s feet to the fire and making sure this was done. Many miners can rest easy tonight—people who have worked so hard all their lives and had so much disappointment—because of Joe Manchin’s work and what we put into the bill.

There is also funding to shore up Puerto Rico’s Medicaid Program, and $2 billion to help States like California, West Virginia, Louisiana, and North Carolina recover from recent natural disasters.

The bill also includes a significant increase in NIH funding, which deals with cancer research and the Cancer Moonshot that both President Obama and Vice President Biden pushed for and continues on and a restoration of year-round Pell grants that will benefit about 1 million students. College is often the ladder up for a lot of students, and this will help them stay on that ladder.

The bill also includes significantly increased funding for infrastructure, as well as funding to combat the scourge of opioid abuse which affects all parts
of the country—urban areas, suburban areas, rural areas. It affects the poor, the middle class, and the rich.

Good news: It protects 99 percent of the Environmental Protection Agency’s budget so their quest to keep our water clean will be able to continue. It increases funding for clean energy research as well. That is one of the great hopes for jobs in this country, as our Senator from Washington, MARIA CANTWELL, constantly reminds us.

For my home State of New York, I was particularly pleased the agreement supports critical programs that are greatly needed and very popular in my State, like the Community Development Block Grant Program, which so many smaller cities depend on; the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to get pollution out of all the Great Lakes, Lake Ontario and Lake Erie being on the shores of New York; and the vital TIGER Grant Program, which has enabled us to support infrastructure, road building, and highways throughout my State and throughout America.

As I said, the bill explicitly precludes the use of any of this funding for a border wall. This is an idea that bipartisan efforts rejected. A load of Congressmen and Senators on the Republican side have said that the wall doesn’t make sense. In fact, you couldn’t find one Republican on the border in the States of California, New Mexico and even Texas who supported that wall. Why? Unlike the President’s promise, Mexico is not paying for it. There is no plan for the wall. We don’t even know where we would build it. The Secretary of the Interior, President Trump’s appointee, said: We can’t build it from the U.S. side because it cuts us off from the middle of the river? And, mainly, because it is not very effective—you can tunnel under a wall.

We all want to prevent the scourge of drugs from coming across our border; so many of them come in little planes, so many of them come in parts of cars, in the carburetor or the exhaust tank—hidden. They will be able to come through because the wall obviously is going to have portals in it where trucks and cars can go through. So there is no money for the border wall, not one penny.

We do have money, of course, for border protection, which both parties have always supported, and comprehensive immigration reform. Senator McCaIN and I, in a bipartisan bill supported by 68 Members of this body, made sure we had very strong border protection. But it has to be smart, it has to be cost effective, and it has to work.

Early on in this debate, Democrats clearly laid out our principles and insisted there would be no poison pill riders in this bill. We were able to knock out more than 160 poison pill riders from the final agreement, including the border wall, anti-labor measures that hurt the working people of America, and efforts to defund Planned Parenthood. So many women depend on these clinics for their health. And we were able to achieve significant investments in domestic programs that help the middle class and those struggling to get to the middle class.

Of course, this bill doesn’t include all the things we wanted, but that is the nature of compromise. At the end of the day, this is an agreement that reflects a consensus—something that both Democrats and Republicans can support. It took a few extra days, but we got a very good agreement.

I want to thank my friend, the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL. He worked very hard to get a good bill. I thank the chairmen and ranking members of the House-Senate Appropriations Committees, particularly Senator LEAHY from Vermont in our Chamber. I thank Speaker RYAN and Senate Majority Leader Steveاعد Staff for working so hard last week and over the weekend to forge an agreement.

I must tell you, and I must tell my colleagues, the negotiations between our two sides were consistently productive and often friendly. Throughout the process, both Republican and Democratic Members and staff negotiated in good faith because we all wanted to get something done. I believe this experience bodes well for the 2018 budget and future negotiations between our two parties on appropriations. If we can show the same desire to get things done—the same mutual respect, the same ability to compromise—we can get a darn good budget for the year 2018 without the specter of a government shutdown hanging over the country’s head.

I wish to say one final thing. It shows that when our Republican colleagues are willing to work with us, we can get things done. All too often—particularly from the White House—this attitude is just do it our way, my way or the highway. That is what happened on the healthcare bill—no consultation with Democrats. That is what happened on this little tax plan.

When you don’t do things in a bipartisan way, it is much harder to pass things. It is much harder to get a product that is at the consensus of where America is. I hope that not only will this successful negotiation on the 2017 appropriations bill be a model for the 2018 bill but a broader model that we can all work together to get things done for the country we love.

I expect we will vote on this bill later this week, and I believe it will receive overwhelming support in this Chamber. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jay Clayton is not new in this regard, nor will he be any less vigilant to ensure that he acts appropriately and ethically.

I will be supporting his nomination and look forward to having him at the SEC, where he can help protect and promote the success of our security markets and our investors.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jay Clayton is not new in this regard, nor will he be any less vigilant to ensure that he acts appropriately and ethically.

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of Jay Clayton, of New York, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2021, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). On this vote, the yeas are 60, the nays are 36.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 36, as follows:

[ Rolled Vote No. 117 Ex.]

YEAS—60

Alexander
Barasso
Bennet
Blumenthal
Boozman
Burr
Capito
Cassidy
Coehran
Collins
Cortez Masto
Coons
Corker
Coryn
Cotton
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Enzi
Ernst
Fischer

NAYS—36

Baldwin
Blumenthal
Boozman
Brown
Burr
Cantwell
Cardin
Casey
Coons
Cortez Masto
Donnelly
Douglas
Feinstein

Darwin
Flake

Not VOTING—4

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). On this vote, the yeas are 60, the nays are 36.

The motion is agreed to.

The assistant majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORYN. 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.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jay Clayton to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Executive Calendar No. 36.

On vote No. 117, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 36.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY, Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chairman: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17-07, concerning the Army’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Kenya for defense articles and services estimated to cost $253 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director,
Enclosures:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

NOT VOTING—4

DURBIN
Flake

One thousand five hundred and thirty-six (1,536) 2.75-inch M774 Smoke signature Warhead Rockets.

Four hundred thousand (400,000) rounds of .50 caliber ammunition.

Also included is communications and navigation equipment, contractor logistics support, training, U.S. Government technical assistance, airframe and weapon system spare parts support, Contractor Field Service Representative (CFSR) support, and Special Airlift Assignment Mission (SAAM) flight delivery support.

Policy justification

Kenya—MD 530 Aircraft

The Government of Kenya has requested a possible sale of twelve (12) MD 530F weaponized aircraft to include twenty-four (24) Heavy Machine Gun Pod (HMP) 400 systems; twenty-four (24) M260 rocket launchers; four thousand and thirty-two (4,032) M151 rockets; one thousand five hundred and thirty-six (1,536) 2.75-inch M774 smoke signature Warhead rockets; and four hundred thousand (400,000) rounds of .50 caliber ammunition. Also included are communications and navigation equipment, contractor logistics support, training, U.S. Government technical assistance, airframe and weapon system spare parts support, Contractor Field Service Representative (CFSR) support, and Special Assigned Airlift Mission (SAAM) flight delivery support.

The total estimated cost is $253 million.

This proposed sale contributes to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a strong regional partner who is a regional security leader, undertaking critical operations against al-Shabaab, and a troop contributor to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

The proposed sale of the MD 530F helicopters, weapons, ammunition, support items and technical support will advance Kenya’s efforts to conduct scout and attack rotary wing aircraft operations in support of their AMISOM mission. The MD 530F will also replace Kenya’s aging MD500 fleet, which is the current reconnaissance platform supporting Kenyan ground forces. This sale will significantly enhance the Kenyan Army’s modernization efforts and increase interoperability with the U.S. Armed Forces and other partners. Additionally, a strong national defense and dedicated military force will assist Kenya in its efforts to maintain stability in East Africa.

Kenya will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be MD Helicopters, Mesa, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of approximately twelve (12) additional contractor representatives in country for a period of 12 months.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.
NATIONAL SEERSUCKER DAY

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the seersucker manufacturers and enthusiasts across the United States. The storied history of this uniquely American fashion dates back to 1909 when Joseph Haspel designed the first seersucker suit at his Broad Street facility in New Orleans. Louisiana is proud to have played an important part in introducing the country to seersucker apparel.

During the hot summer months, Americans across the country have worn and enjoyed this lightweight cotton fabric, known for its signature pucker. Mr. Haspel said it best, “hot is no, no matter what you do for a living.” In the 1950s, Members of this Chamber established Seersucker Day to honor this unique American fashion. I proudly resumed this tradition in 2014 in the U.S. House of Representatives by designating Wednesday, June 11, as National Seersucker Day. I have continued to do so in the U.S. Senate and wish to designate Thursday, June 8, as the fourth annual National Seersucker Day. I encourage everyone to wear seersucker on this day to commemorate this iconic American clothing.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, there is no place on this planet like the Crown of the Continent, Glacier National Park.

For over 100 years, families have flocked to Glacier National Park to experience the breathtaking views, unique wildlife, and the pristine landscapes that can’t be found anywhere else on earth.

In fact, last year, more than 2.3 million people visited Glacier National Park to hike above Lake McDonald, bike across the Continental Divide, and experience the Going-to-the-Sun Road.

Today we mark the next chapter of the distinctive history of Glacier National Park. Glacier National Park and Waterton Lakes National Park have collectively become the first trans-continental National Parks to secure “dark sky” status.

To achieve this prestigious status, Glacier National Park has retrofitted nearly 30 percent of its light fixtures and is committing to continue to identify ways to limit artificial light within the park.

By achieving this status, Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks have provided the public with even more reasons to explore the outdoors in northwest Montana and southwest Alberta.

Not only do dark skies play an important role in outdoor recreation and late-night stargazing, but they are critical to wildlife migrations and habitats within the parks.

This wouldn’t be possible without Glacier Park superintendent Jeff Mow.

Their leadership has ushered Glacier National Park into a new era and provided millions of folks around the world with the opportunity to fall in love again with our great outdoors.

Thank you again for your outstanding work.

TRIBUTE TO ROB OLIVER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the distinguished career of Augustana University president Rob Oliver.

His 11 years of leadership as the 23rd president of Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD, have highlighted his servant’s heart, visionary attitude, and passion for higher education. As he prepares for this next chapter in life, I would like to honor Rob’s dedication and efforts to not only continue the university’s rich history of providing students with a quality liberal arts education, but also for his commitment to ensuring future students are given the opportunity to advance their studies and give the foundation to live a life of purpose at Augustana University.

President Oliver joined the university after being incredibly involved in the Sioux Falls financial, business, and philanthropic community. For many years, Rob pursued efforts to improve the economic vitality of the region and served as the lead member and devoted volunteer for many organizations, including the board of trustees of then-Augustana College.

Rob’s presidential tenure occurred during a time of uncertainty for many colleges and universities across the country. With the rising costs of higher education, enrollment challenges, nationwide economic troubles, and a growing discourse regarding the value of a college degree, many traditional institutions were struggling to chart a sustainable path forward.

However, through President Oliver’s ability to inspire others, offer a strategic vision, and execute a thorough plan of action, he has responded to those difficulties and strengthened Augustana’s mission to deliver a quality, well-rounded experience for students, faculty, and staff.

Under Rob’s direction, Augustana has attained a number of accomplishments. Many well-known investments in the Froland Science Complex and Mikkelsen Library and others will point to record-setting monetary support and vastly increased endowment and scholarship programs as remarkable accomplishments; yet it is also worthwhile to note the university’s advancement of the Civitas honors program, new academic majors and curriculum, expanded undergraduate research, and an expansion of online offerings for undergraduate, graduate, and adult students. In addition, the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Student Success Center were created to provide important strategic partnerships and vocational engagement.

Knowing the university’s ability to attract students also depends on factors and opportunities outside the scholastic realm. President Oliver’s era of leadership also included growth in the performing and visual arts, study abroad programs, and the construction and renovation of first-class, athletic facilities such as Kirkey-Over Stadium, Ronken Field, and other projects.

The university has already seen the fruits of Rob’s diligent work. With enrollment at a 20-year high, scholarships and financial aid for 100 percent of its full-time students, two NCAA championships, a well-respected place among the Nation’s top educational institutions, and additional projects already staged for the future, there is little doubt his contributions as part of Augustana University, whether as a trustee, member of the faculty, or finally as president, Oliver’s outstanding legacy will leave an impact for many years to come.

I wish Rob, his wife, Shari, and the entire family the very best as we celebrate his service to Augustana University and the people of South Dakota.

RECOGNIZING HOOSIER CROSSFIT

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, my home State of Indiana takes pride in its long tradition of Hoosier innovation and small business entrepreneurship. Hoosier businesses across the State are striving to create quality products and services that make a difference for many years to come.

Mr. President, my home State of South Dakota also is proud to call myself a Hoosier CrossFit fan. Hoosier CrossFit as one of Indiana’s outstanding small businesses during National Small Business Week. I would like to take the opportunity to recognize one of South Dakota’s outstanding small businesses during National Small Business Week, I would like to honor Hoosier CrossFit, a company that has been a leader in the Hoosier CrossFit as one of Indiana’s outstanding small businesses during National Small Business Week. I would like to honor Hoosier CrossFit, a company that has been a leader in the Hoosier CrossFit as one of Indiana’s outstanding small businesses, during National Small Business Week.

Hoosier CrossFit is owned and operated by husband and wife Shaun and Jenna Tieman. The Tiemans, both born and raised in Indiana, are hard-working Hoosier entrepreneurs who opened Hoo-
years. They are also to be commended for their community involvement, whether it be organizing its largest annual fundraiser, Murph, which honors U.S. Navy SEAL Michael P. Murphy who was killed in action in Afghanistan, or raising funds for the American Red Cross and Wish for our Heroes. Hoosier CrossFit is a small business that all Hoosiers can be proud of. I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to the employees, owners, and entire community at Hoosier CrossFit for earning this recognition during National Small Business Week. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to watching your continued growth and success.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

UNROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on April 28, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following unrolled joint resolution:

H. J. Res. 99 Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the enrolled joint resolution was signed on April 28, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:
S. 317. A bill to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, and for other purposes.

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:
S. 632. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children.

S. 849. A bill to support programs for mosquito-borne and other vector-borne disease surveillance and control.

S. 916. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with regard to the provision of emergency medical services.

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:
S. 920. A bill to establish a National Clinical Care Commission.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. HENRICH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. HARRES):
S. 991. A bill to prohibit drilling in the Arctic Ocean; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Ms. BALKIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. SULLIVAN):
S. 992. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct an independent review of the deaths of certain veterans by suicide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. Sasse, and Mr. INHOFE):
S. 993. A bill to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from reclassifying broadband Internet access service as a telecommunications service and from imposing certain regulations on providers of such services; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):
S. 994. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for the protection of community centers with religious affiliation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):
S. 995. A bill to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. HENRICH:
S. 996. A bill to improve college affordability; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY:
S. 997. A bill to permit employees to request, and to ensure employers consider requests for, flexible work terms and conditions, to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

S. 996. A bill to amend the Taxpayer Protection Act of 1993 to protect personally identifiable information and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. MARKY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. RIED, Mr. NELSON, Mr. MENDELL, Mr. SCHIESE, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HASSAN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):
S. 999. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, North Atlantic, and Straits of Florida planning areas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MARKY):
S. 1000. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to expand coverage under the Act, to provide protection for whistleblowers, to increase penalties for high gravity violations, to adjust penalties for inflation, to provide rights for victims or their family members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. HATCH):
S. Res. 18. A resolution congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and leaders of charter schools across the United States for making ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 18th annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 1 through May 5, 2017; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 180
At the request of Mr. SANDERS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 180, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reduce fraud and abuse in certain visa programs for aliens working temporarily in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 307
At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 307, a bill to enhance the database of emergency response capabilities of the Department of Defense.

S. 324
At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 324, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans.

S. 372
At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 372, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to ensure that merchandise arriving through the mail shall be subject to review by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and to require the provision of advance shipment information on shipments of mail to U.S. Customs and Border Protection and for other purposes.

S. 384
At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 384, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 470
At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 470, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the Child and Dependent Care
At the request of Mr. Brown, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. Stabenow) was added as a cosponsor of S. 568, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

At the request of Mrs. Capito, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester) was added as a cosponsor of S. 593, a bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States.

At the request of Mr. Portman, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. Murray) was added as a cosponsor of S. 652, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children.

At the request of Mr. Tester, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mrs. Murkowski) was added as a cosponsor of S. 806, a bill to amend the Tax Credit and make the credit fully refundable.

At the request of Mr. Peters, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester) were added as cosponsors of S. 845, a bill to protect sensitive community locations from harmful immigration enforcement action, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. King, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. Murray) was added as a cosponsor of S. 867, a bill to provide support for law enforcement agency efforts to protect the mental health and well-being of law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Donnelly, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar) was added as a cosponsor of S. 916, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with regard to the provision of emergency medical services.

At the request of Mrs. Shaheen, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. Murray) was added as a cosponsor of S. 920, a bill to establish a National Clinical Care Commission.

At the request of Mrs. Ernst, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. Grassley), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Tillis) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester) were added as cosponsors of S. 925, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the ability of health care professionals to treat veterans through the use of telemedicine, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Grassley, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Crapo), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Menendez) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Boozman) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 12, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that those who served in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, should be presumed to have served in the Republic of Vietnam for all purposes under the Agent Orange Act of 1991.

At the request of Mr. Portman, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Casey) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 75, a resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the largest organization of food and nutrition professionals in the world.

At the request of Mr. Wicker, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Boozman) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 106, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate to support the territorial integrity of Georgia.

At the request of Mr. Young, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. Rubio) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Boozman) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 114, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on humanitarian crises in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. Daines (for himself and Mr. Peters):

S. 998. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to protect personally identifiable information from disclosure purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Daines. Mr. President, in recent years the American people have lost trust in the Federal government to keep our personally identifiable information, or PII, secure. In June of 2015 the Office of Personnel Management was infiltrated with a major cyber breach, affecting more than 22 million current and former federal employees,
including myself. In January of 2016, another nearly half a million Americans had their social security numbers stolen when the Internal Revenue Service was hacked.

I spent 28 years in the private sector. 12 years with a global cloud computing company, and thereafter as CEO of a digital security company, and our customers expected security of their data. We delivered and not once was our data compromised. And we certainly did not give it out voluntarily. When there is an opportunity to protect data, we need to act on it and begin to rebuild trust with the American people.

In 1984, the public disclosure of certain manifest information was required of Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The original intent was to increase competition, to facilitate better public analysis of import trends, and to allow port authorities and transportation companies to more easily identify potential customers and changes in their shipping patterns. However, in recent years, PII of relocating individuals, bringing their home goods back to the United States, has been released, enabling identity theft, credit card fraud, and unwanted solicitations.

CBP does offer a process for consumers of shipping services to make their information confidential. However, these forms typical take two months to process and are often processed after the individual has moved. That is why I am introducing the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act. This legislation will simply require CBP to remove personally identifiable information from vessel manifest sheets before making them available for public disclosure. I believe the default should be to protect peoples’ privacy and automatically remove this personal information, rather than requiring citizens to make a request and hope the paperwork is processed in time.

I want to thank Senator Peters for being an original cosponsor of this bill. I ask my Senate colleagues to join us in support of this important legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 998

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act”.

SEC. 2. PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.

Paragraph (2) of section 431(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1431(c)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2)(A) The information listed in paragraph (1) shall not be available for public disclosure if—

“(i) the Secretary of the Treasury makes an affirmative finding on a shipment-by-shipment basis that disclosure is likely to pose a threat of personal injury or property damage; or

“(ii) the information is exempt under the provisions of section 552(b)(1) of title 5 of the United States Code.

“(B) The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall ensure that any personally identifiable information, including personally identifiable passport numbers, passport signatures, and residential addresses, are removed from any manifest signed, produced, delivered, or transmitted under this section before the manifest is disclosed to the public.”

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 148—CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND LEADERS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR MAKING ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION, AND SUPPORTING THE IDEALS AND GOALS OF THE 18TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK.

On motion of Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. McCAIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution, which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 148

Whereas charter schools are public schools that do not charge tuition and enroll any student who wants to attend, often through a random lottery when the demand for enrollment is outmatched by the supply of available charter school seats; whereas high-performing public charter schools deliver a high-quality public education and challenge all students to reach the students’ potential for academic success;

Whereas public charter schools promote innovation and excellence in public education;

Whereas public charter schools throughout the United States provide millions of families with diverse and innovative educational options for children of the families;

Whereas high-performing public charter schools and charter management organizations are increasing student achievement and attendance rates at institutions of higher education;

Whereas public charter schools are authorized by a designated entity and—

(1) respond to the needs of communities, families, and students in the United States; and

(2) promote the principles of quality, accountability, choice, high performance, and innovation;

Whereas, in exchange for flexibility and autonomy, public charter schools are held accountable by the authorizers of the charter schools for improving student achievement and for sound financial and operational management;

Whereas public charter schools are required to meet the student achievement accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) in the same manner as traditional public schools;

Whereas public charter schools often set higher expectations for students, beyond the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), to ensure that the charter schools are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas 44 States and the District of Columbia have enacted laws authorizing public charter schools;

Whereas, as of the 2016–2017 school year, more than 6,698 public charter schools served more than 3,100,000 children;

Whereas enrollment in public charter schools grew from 900,000 students in 2001 to 3,100,000 students in 2017, a sevenfold increase in 16 years;

Whereas in the United States—

(1) in 190 school districts, more than 10 percent of public school students are enrolled in public charter schools; and

(2) in 18 school districts, at least 30 percent of public school students are enrolled in public charter schools;

Whereas public charter schools improve the achievement of students enrolled in the charter schools and collaborate with traditional public schools to improve public education for all students;

Whereas public charter school—

(1) routinely measure parental satisfaction levels; and

(2) must prove the ongoing success of the charter schools to parents, policymakers, and the communities served by the charter schools or risk closure;

Whereas a 2015 report from the Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stanford University found significant improvements for students at urban charter schools, compared to public schools; and whereas public charter schools, each year those students completed the equivalent of 28 more days of learning in reading and 40 more days of learning in mathematics;

Whereas parental demand for charter schools is high, and there was an estimated 7 percent growth in charter school enrollment between fall 2015 and fall 2016; and

Whereas the 18th annual National Charter Schools Week is scheduled to be celebrated the week of May 1 through May 5, 2017:

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities during National Charter Schools Week; and

(2) supports the idea of granting the 18th annual National Charter Schools Week, a week-long celebration to be held May 1 through May 5, 2017, in communities throughout the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities during National Charter Schools Week to demonstrate support for public charter schools.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 209. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. CORKER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 371, to make technical changes and other improvements to the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017.
TEXT OF AMENDMENTS
SA 209. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. CORKER).—Proposed an amendment to the bill S. 371 to make technical changes and other improvements to the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017; as follows:

On page 6, beginning on line 9, strike "and" and all that follows through line 17 and insert the following:

(2) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

"(1) a comparison of the costs of current United Nations peacekeeping operations, including the costs incurred by the United States for such operations, and the estimated costs of such operations if implemented unilaterally by the United States;"

(3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1), as amended by paragraph (2) of this section, the following new paragraph:

"(2) an assessment of the operational, structural, and doctrinal differences between the military and civilian infrastructures of the United States and United Nations and other assumptions that impact cost estimates; and;"

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 1, 2017, AS SILVER STAR SERVICE BANNER DAY.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 135.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 135) expressing support on behalf of the Senate of May 1, 2017, as “Silver Star Service Banner Day.”

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 135) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of April 24, 2017, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORITIES ACT, FISCAL YEAR 2017, IMPROVEMENTS ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. 371 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The bill (S. 371), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

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

SEC. 2. OVERSIGHT BY COMMITTEES ON APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) OMNIBUS DIPLOMATIC SECURITY AND ANTITERRORISM ACT OF 1986.—Section 104(a) of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986, as added by section 101 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323), is amended by inserting “and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives” after “appropriate congressional committees”; and

(b) ANNUAL REPORT ON EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION COSTS.—Section 118(a) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by inserting “and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives” after “appropriate congressional committees”; and

(c) OVERSIGHT OF AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PEACKEEPER ABUSES.—Section 301(a) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by inserting “and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives” after “appropriate congressional committees”.

(d) WORKFORCE RIGHTEOUSNESS REPORT.—Section 408(c) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by inserting “and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives” after “appropriate congressional committees”.

(e) CONSULAR IMMUNITY.—Subsection (b)(2) of section 4 of the Diplomatic Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 544c), as added by section 501 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323), is amended by striking “of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations” and inserting “the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations”.

(f) WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG POLICY COMMISSION REPORT.—Section 602(c) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended—

(1) by inserting “and the Committee on Appropriations” after “Committee on Foreign Affairs”; and

(2) by inserting “and the Committee on Appropriations” after “Committee on Foreign Relations”.

SEC. 3. PEACKEEPING TRAINING.

Section 301 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “enhance the discovery” and inserting “investigate allegations”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “adequately respond to complaints about such offenses by carrying out swift and effective disciplinary action against the personnel” and inserting “appropriately hold accountable personnel”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, including compensation to victims, as appropriate” after “responses to such offenses”; and

(2) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “any individual who commits an act” and inserting “individual who are found to have committed acts” and

(3) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “note-worthy”.

SEC. 4. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL.

Section 310 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “The descriptions referred to in subsection (a) shall include the following elements” and inserting “In addition to the descriptions referred to in subsection (a), each such candidate shall be urged to describe the following”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “such” and inserting “such agendas”.

SEC. 5. POLICY REGARDING THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL.

Section 311(a)(2) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “The descriptions referred to in subsection (a) shall include the following elements” and inserting “In addition to the descriptions referred to in subsection (a), each such candidate shall be urged to describe the following”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “such” and inserting “such agendas”.

SEC. 6. UNSTOPPABLE TERRORISM.

Section 602(c) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by inserting “and the Committee on Appropriations” after “Committee on Foreign Affairs”.

SEC. 7. U.S. RECOGNITION OF CONGO Democratic Republic of the.

Section 704(e) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by inserting “and the Committee on Appropriations” after “Committee on Foreign Affairs”.

SEC. 8. IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION.

Section 806(b) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by inserting “and the Committee on Appropriations” after “Committee on Foreign Affairs”.

SEC. 9. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM.

Section 901(e) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by inserting “and the Committee on Appropriations” after “Committee on Foreign Affairs”.

SEC. 10. PREVENTING VIETNAM FROM NEW FOREIGN INTRUSION.

Section 1012 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by inserting “and the Committee on Appropriations” after “Committee on Foreign Affairs”.

SEC. 11. NEW VIETNAM EMBASSY IN U.S.

Section 1114 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by inserting “and the Committee on Appropriations” after “Committee on Foreign Affairs”.

SEC. 12. PROHIBITION ON VIETNAM LEGATIONS.

Section 1214 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by inserting “and the Committee on Appropriations” after “Committee on Foreign Affairs”.

SEC. 6. COMPARATIVE REPORT ON PEACEMAKING OPERATIONS.

Section 313 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended—

(1) inserting “and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives” after “appropriate congressional committees”;

(2) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

"(1) a comparison of the costs of current United Nations peacekeeping operations, including operations authorized by the United States for such operations, and the estimated cost of such operations if implemented unilaterally by the United States;",

(3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1), as amended by paragraph (2) of this section, the following:

"(2) an assessment of the operational, structural, and doctrinal differences between the military and civilian infrastructures of the United States and the United Nations and other assumptions that impact cost estimates; and"

SEC. 7. LATERAL ENTRY INTO THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

Section 404(a) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by striking "outstanding".

SEC. 8. COMBATING INTOLERANCE.

The section heading of section 419 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by striking "ANTI-SEMITISM" and inserting "INTOLERANCE".

SEC. 9. TECHNICAL CORRECTION REGARDING COMPLETION OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG POLICY COMMISSION REPORT.

Section 603(c)(1) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by striking "section 362" and inserting "section 602(c)".

SEC. 10. BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

Section 703(b)(2) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by striking "any significant restructuring.".

SEC. 11. RANSOMS TO FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 709(a) of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–323) is amended by striking "resubmitting paragraphs (1) through (4) of section (a); and"

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1), as amended by paragraph (2) of this section, the following:

"(1) a comparison of the costs of current United Nations peacekeeping operations, including operations authorized by the United States for such operations, and the estimated cost of such operations if implemented unilaterally by the United States;",

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as paragraph (2) and moving such paragraph, as so redesignated, two ems to the right; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) PERIODIC REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017, Improvements Act, and annually thereafter until December 31, 2021, the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on—

(1) steps taken by the President and the Secretary in accordance with subsection (a)(1); and

"(2) the status of any discussions between the People’s Republic of China and the Dalai Lama or his representatives.”.

CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND LEADERS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR MAKING ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 148, 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. 148) congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and leaders of charter schools across the United States for making ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 18th annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 1 through May 5, 2017.

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 148) 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, MAY 2, 2017

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 2; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Clayton nomination with the time until 12:30 p.m. equally divided in the usual form; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; finally, that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and leader remarks count post cloture on the Clayton nomination.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CORNYN. 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, following the remarks of the Senator from Florida, Mr. Nelson.

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

The Senator from Florida is recognized.

GULF OF MEXICO OIL DRILLING MORATORIUM

Mr. Nelson. Mr. President, there has been a longstanding question of whether there would be drilling for oil in the eastern Gulf of Mexico off the State of Florida.

This had been settled in law 10 years ago. Then, my colleague Senator Mel Martinez and I passed a portion of legislation called GOMESA. That portion of the legislation put the drilling off of Florida in the eastern Gulf—everything east of a north-south line called the Military Mission Line, which is a line running south of approximately Fort Walton Beach—everything east of that is off limits in law to any kind of oil drilling activity, along with the remainder of the coast of Florida; 125 miles from the coast going all the way over to Pensacola and to the Perdido River, which is the Alabama-Florida line.

The reasons for this are many, but not the least of which is called the Military Mission Line. That area of the Gulf of Florida is the largest testing and training area for the United States military in the world. Compared to other testing ranges, such as the Nevada Test Site—it dwarfs that site. As we can see, from north to south, we have ranges as far as 300 miles from east to west. For example, off of Naples, FL, all the way west to the Military Mission Line is approximately 250 miles. That has been needed by our U.S. military because of the testing and training.

It has been doubted over the years as the relentless pursuit of oil drilling by the oil industry has tried to erode into that, and that is why, in a bipartisan way, Senator Martinez and I put in law for the period of years through 2022, from when we passed this back in 2006, it off limits.

The question is, What is coming afterward? Well, of course if it is up to the Department of Defense, there will be no oil drilling activity. That is what I am concerned about bringing to the attention of the Senate today.

Two previous Secretaries of Defense in Republican administrations, including Secretary Rumsfeld, have written letters to state the policy that any oil-related activity in that testing and training range would be inconsistent with the mission of the testing and training of the U.S. military.

The reason I am bringing this to the attention of the Senate today is that a letter, signed by the Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Test and Readiness has just come into my possession. A gentleman named Mr. A.M. Kurtz writes:

Mr. Kurtz. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Florida, Mr. Nelson.

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

The Senator from Florida is recognized.

Mr. Martinez. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Florida, Mr. Nelson.

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

The Senator from Florida is recognized.

Mr. Martinez. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Florida, Mr. Nelson.

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

The Senator from Florida is recognized.
I have been asked to respond to your letter—

This is to Congressman Matt Gaetz—

on behalf of the Secretary of Defense.

This is regarding the maintaining of the moratorium on oil and gas activities in the Gulf of Mexico beyond the year 2022.

The Department of Defense (DoD) cannot overstate the vital importance of maintaining this moratorium.

Why is that? The letter goes on to explain not only the necessity of which so many of our bases in the area—Tym-dall Air Force Base in Panama City, all the testing and training of the F-22, the training of our pilots there; Eglin Air Force Base, the testing and training of the pilots for the F-35. Remember, the F-35 is being sold to many foreign nations, the testing and training of those pilots, as well, but now, with new technologies—I quote from the letter:

Emerging technologies such as hypersonics, autonomous systems, and advanced sub-surface systems will require enlarged testing and training footprints, and increased DoD reliance on the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act’s moratorium beyond 2022. The moratorium is essential for developing and sustaining our nation’s future combat capabilities.

Since signing the 1981 “Memorandum of Agreement” between the Department of Defense and the Department of the Interior on Mutual Concerns on the Outer Continental Shelf,” the two departments have worked cooperatively to ensure offshore resource development is compatible with military readiness activities. During recent discussions between the DoD and the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, a question arose concerning whether Congress intended the moratorium to prohibit even geological and geophysical survey activities in the eastern Gulf. We would welcome clarification from Congress concerning this matter.

On behalf of the Secretary, I appreciate your interest in sustaining our testing and training activities in the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

Sincerely,

A.M. Kurta,

Performing the Duties of the Under Sec-
retary of Defense for Personnel and Read-
iness.

Mr. Nelson. Mr. President, in conclusion, we can’t have oil drilling, not only for our national security and the testing and training of our most sophisticated weapon systems in the Gulf of Florida, but we also couldn’t stand it if we had another oil spill that would do to us what the last one did. It was a spill way far west off of Lou-
siana, but it drifted to the east and blackened the sugary white sands of Pensacola Beach and Destin Beach, and there were tar balls as far east as Pan-
ama City Beach. Because of that, we lost an entire season of our guests, our tourists. They did not come to the Gulf Coast of Florida, not just in the Flor-
da panhandle but all the way south down the Gulf to Naples and to Marco Island—a $60 billion per year tourism industry for Florida’s economy. We can’t suffer that kind of shock again.

So whether be the degradation of the environment, the poisoning up of the training and testing of our U.S. military and their largest testing and training range, or the devastating eco-
nomic loss to Florida of its tourism industry—for all those reasons, we need to pass this legislation. It will be coming forth in a bipartisan fashion.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 4:39 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 01, 2017.

IN THE NAVY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Rear Adm. (LH) Eberhard A. Brown
Rear Adm. (LH) James S. Syncw
Rear Adm. (LH) Darrell L. Cauble
Rear Adm. (LH) Sandy B. Critt
Rear Adm. (LH) Daniel H. Fillion
Rear Adm. (LH) Colleen P. Green
Rear Adm. (LH) Mary W. Kinamon
Rear Adm. (LH) James W. Kilby
Rear Adm. (LH) John W. Tammin, Jr.

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Kevin M. Jones
Capt. Thomas J. Moreau

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. David G. Bellan
Brig. Gen. Patrick J. Hermesmann

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Edward D. Mansfield
Brig. Gen. Robert P. Castlelvi
Brig. Gen. Matthew G. Glavy
Brig. Gen. Michael S. Groom
Brig. Gen. Kevin M. Hams
Brig. Gen. William P. Halle Es
Brig. Gen. Gregg P. Olson
Brig. Gen. Eric M. Smith

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Michael S. Martin

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. James H. Adams III
Col. Eric F. Austin
Col. Jay M. Barbour
Col. Michael J. Borschulnte
Col. Michael J. Bowesl
Col. Dmitri Henry
Col. Keith E. Reventlow
Col. Robaina L. Sheh
Col. Benjamin T. Watson
Col. Christian F. Worton

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers 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 661:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. H. K. Feenoom

The following named officers 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 661:
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE  May 1, 2017

S2656

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Darrell E. Williams

IN THE NAVY

The following names of officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated were transmitted with a certificate of designation of importance and responsibility under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. David H. Lewis

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 26, 2017.

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. Mathias W. Winter

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (L(R)) Steven L. Parode

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

IN THE AIR FORCE

Air Force nomination of Raymond J. Jones III, to be major.

Air Force nominations beginning with Robert D. Boggs and ending with Steven C. Cash, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Lisa Ann T. Bateman and ending with Julie L. Legarde, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Lori J. Bettit and ending with Lisa S. Shlay, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nomination of James A. Crider, to be colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Jose E. Barbiera and ending with David H. Zonies, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Kristin L. Ader and ending with Christopher C. Vannatta, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Gregor Michael Schuler and ending with William Scott Wiegler, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Patrick W. Albright and ending with Qasim I. Khan, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Tyler J. Barachowski and ending with Maritha S. Equin, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Jon A. Abbott and ending with Danielle C. Yuen, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Michael J. Alfaro and ending with Sara M. Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Jessica L. Abbott and ending with Heath D. Wright, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Corey R. Anderson III and ending with Andrew J. Iovoy, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Edward R. Anderson and ending with Yan Y. Iwamoto, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Patrick M. Albright and ending with Ray A. Zuniga, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Neil R. Albright and ending with William J. Valazquez, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Air Force nomination of Robert P. McCoy, to be colonel.

Air Force nomination of Allen R. Henderson, Jr., to be major.

Air Force nomination of George L. Burtnett, to be lieutenant colonel.

Air Force nomination of Dion N. Dixon, to be lieutenant colonel.

Air Force nomination of Rebecca A. Life, to be major.

Air Force nomination of Michael N. Tesfay, to be major.

Air Force nominations beginning with Ryan W. Ahern and ending with Breanna G. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Allen Seth Ahlmand and ending with Thomas Benjamin Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Willie J. Bahor and ending with Maureen Scheckle Wood, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Bith M. Bakyen and ending with William T. Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Hector L. Colon-Colon and ending with Kevin L. Lockett, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Martin J. Hamilton, to be colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Michael A. Blackburn and ending with Michael L. Richardson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

In the Army

Army nomination of Scott C. Apling, to be lieutenant colonel.

Army nomination of Patricia L. George, to be colonel.

Army nomination of Adam J. Points, to be lieutenant colonel.

Army nomination of Larry G. Workman, to be lieutenant colonel.

Army nomination of Robert J. Dunlap, to be lieutenant colonel.

Army nomination of Wayne G. Dibney, to be colonel.

Army nomination of Johnathan T. Parsch, to be colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Jacob P. Adams and ending with Michael J. Alfaro, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Mark P. Adams and ending with John M. Adkins, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Andrew A. Abubakel and ending with John M. Adkins, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Victor V. Adams and ending with H. Amiri, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Michael C. Alford and ending with Sara M. Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Jessica L. Abbott and ending with Heath D. Wright, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Corey R. Anderson III and ending with Andrew J. Iovoy, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Edward R. Anderson and ending with Yan Y. Iwamoto, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

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Army nomination of Robert P. McCoy, to be colonel.

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Army nomination of George L. Burtnett, to be lieutenant colonel.

Army nomination of Dion N. Dixon, to be lieutenant colonel.

Army nomination of Rebecca A. Life, to be major.

Army nomination of Michael N. Tesfay, to be major.

Army nominations beginning with Ryan W. Ahern and ending with Breanna G. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

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Army nominations beginning with Bith M. Bakyen and ending with William T. Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Hector L. Colon-Colon and ending with Kevin L. Lockett, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

In the Army

Army nomination of Brian R. Barlow, to be colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Jonathan L. Boulaqu and ending with David A. Langrich, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Timothy L. Bailey and ending with Gerald D. White, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Army nomination of James Y. Crawford, to be colonel.

Army nomination of Mohammed S. Azie, to be major.

Army nomination of Seth C. Lydem, to be major.

Army nomination of Christopher C. Ostby, to be colonel.

Army nomination of Calvin E. Fish, to be colonel.

Army nomination of Aaron E. Lane, to be major.

Army nomination of Damien R. Boyafi, to be lieutenant colonel.

Army nomination of Randy D. Dorsey, to be colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Benjamin R. Stinson and ending with Joseph N. White, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Charles J. Hasebly and ending with Jason T. Ramsdott, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Army nomination of Alexander M. Willard, to be major.

Army nomination of Christopher K. Berthold, to be major.

Army nomination of Preston H. Leonard, to be major.

Army nomination of Nicole E. Ussery, to be lieutenant colonel.

Army nomination of Michael D. Baker, to be colonel.

Army nomination of Bridget V. Kmitz, to be colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Viciana R. Atkinson and ending with Michael N. Tesfay, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Vanesa R. Atkinson and ending with Michelle L. Leavitt, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Charlen J. McMillan and ending with Bith M. Bakyen, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.
ARMY NOMINATION OF JONATHAN A. JOHNSON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES A. BENSON AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM M. YANEK, II, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEAR IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 6, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CRYSTAL J. SMITH, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAN NAZARI, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DOUGLAS A. MCKWAIN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAVID M. WALLACE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LISA M. PATTON, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BASIL J. CATANZARO, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE MARINE CORPS


MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANS A. ABUEZID AND ENDING WITH CRAIG A. ZOELENSK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIEL W. ANNUNZIATA AND ENDING WITH LEAN R. PAIBRICK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 1, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JAMES R. REUSSE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSH M. ACÉVIZO AND ENDING WITH FRANCISCO X. ZAVALA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 1, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KENDY CENTHIO, JR. AND ENDING WITH JAMES L. SHELTON, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 1, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF RICHARD K. O'BRIEN, TO BE MAJOR.


MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL M. DODD AND ENDING WITH ROBERT J. SNODDY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF DAVID S. GRISSON, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JOHN W. GLINSKY, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF KEITH A. STEVENSON, TO BE MAJOR.


MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN BROWN, JR. AND ENDING WITH JULIUS G. JONES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 4, 2017.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF REANN S. MOMMSEN, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL W. AHRENS AND ENDING WITH SPIESEL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 6, 2017.


NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SARAH C. TAYLOR AND ENDING WITH BRAD J. WILDE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 6, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATION OF DONALD V. WILSON, TO BE COMMISSIONER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL J. KETT, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH HORACIO G. TAN AND ENDING WITH DIERICKE THOMAS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 6, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATION OF NATHALIE C. O. TOTT, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JOHN F. SHARP, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF REANN S. MOMMSEN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.
IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT JASON MARTIN

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Lieutenant Jason Martin of the Springfield Township Ambulance Corps. Lieutenant Martin grew up around the ambulance corps—often acting as a patient in training exercises when he was young. He has demonstrated his devotion for protecting his community through his work.

As a pillar of Springfield Township, Lieutenant Martin has rightly been nominated as EMT of the Year as part of the 25th Annual Springfield Loyalty Day.

I thank Lieutenant Martin for his service.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD WATERS

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Donald Waters of Cumberland, Iowa, for receiving the 2016 Top Soybean Producer Award in the United States. This honor is given by Asgrow, a division of the Monsanto Corporation. Asgrow started the national yield competition in 2012 to encourage soybean growers to increase their yield limits.

By using the Asgrow brand, Donald achieved a yield of 87.6 bushels per acre. He competed with farmers from 21 states across the country. The competition is open to all farmers who use the Asgrow brand. Jesse Hamonic, DeKalb/Asgrow Brand Lead said he is proud of Donald’s management skills in achieving this high yield record.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Donald for receiving this outstanding award and for his many years of dedicated and devoted service to Asgrow community. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Donald for his many accomplishments and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING RABBI MICHAEL SCHWAB

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my dear friend, Rabbi Michael Schwab of North Suburban Synagogue Beth El in Highland Park, IL, and the celebration of his thirteenth year of service to the congregation and our community.

I met Rabbi Schwab when he first came to our community and immediately appreciated his compassion, his spirit and his ability to make all around him feel special. Over the years, I have come to further appreciate his leadership and wisdom, often turning to him, for guidance.

Rabbi Schwab leads by example through his keen understanding of Jewish values, strong advocacy for the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship, and unwavering dedication for his community.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Rabbi Schwab began his studies at Rutgers University, and later received his ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and MA in Jewish Education from the William Davidson Graduate School of Education. Beyond the classroom, he gained additional experience through the Clinical Pastoral Education Program at Penn Foundation for Mental Health and time studying in Israel at the Hebrew University, Machon Schechter and the Conservative Yeshiva. As a Chicago Global Justice Fellow for American Jewish World Service, Rabbi Schwab is a tireless protector and promoter of human rights, and he shares his views on ethical issues as a scholar for Jewish Values Online.

He is an engaged member of the community, serving on the AIPAC National Council, the Chicago Board of Rabbis Executive Council, as a member of the Board of Directors of Solomon Schechter Day School, among others.

Through North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, Rabbi Schwab serves over 1,100 families. This synagogue was founded in 1948 as the first Conservative congregation on the North Shore of Chicago. Rabbi Schwab is married to Erica, a behavioral therapist and teacher of children with developmental disabilities, and they are the proud parents of four children: Ari, Liana, Noa and Miri.

On behalf of Illinois’s Tenth Congressional District, I congratulate Rabbi Schwab for his service and look forward to his continued contributions to the life of our community.

CONGRATULATING PALATINE

HON. R. J. ROSKAM
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Palatine on being named one of the safest cities in the United States. The Village of Palatine was named the fifty-first safest city on Neighborhood Scout’s list of America’s 100 Safest Cities. The residents of Palatine should never underestimate the impact that each citizen’s positive actions can have. Every day there are members of the community helping to change lives, while also inspiring their peers to do the same.

I would be remiss to not also mention the wonderful job of the Palatine Police and Fire Departments. Day in and day out the men and women of the Palatine Police and Fire Departments risk their lives to protect their community. Their bravery and courage are very deserving of our recognition and admiration and I am pleased to see their service has led to Palatine being named one of the safest cities in America.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the Village of Palatine, Illinois and congratulating them on being named one of the safest cities in America.

A TRIBUTE TO BURBANK TEMPLE EMANU EL’S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Burbank Temple Emanu El upon its 70th Anniversary. The Burbank Temple Emanu El (BTEE) is a progressive-minded, egalitarian synagogue serving Burbank and the greater San Fernando Valley. Its rich history steeps in the tenets and traditions of American Conservative Judaism dating back to 1947. Since its founding, BTEE has fostered a vibrant Jewish presence in our community and has grown from a one-room nursery on Grismer Avenue to a full-service temple with numerous programs and activities for all ages.

Today, BTEE is equipped with an award-winning Early Childhood Center, Hebrew School, and Adult Education program and encourages member participation throughout the year with weekly services, holy celebrations, simchas, and service projects. Members can also engage in tikkun olam (fixing the world) through the Temple’s Social Action Committee which strengthens the congregation’s ties with the surrounding community.

The time, energy, and care that this temple has given to its members and the community are extraordinary and would not be possible without the dedicated and exceptional clergy, leadership, volunteers and staff of BTEE. At this time, I ask all Members to join with me in congratulating Burbank Temple Emanu El upon 70 years of service to the Burbank community.
RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. STAN GOOCH AND THE IMPACT HE HAD ON BOY’S BASKETBALL IN MICHIGAN

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives join me in recognizing Mr. Stan Gooch, of Grand Blanc, for his tremendous, lasting impact in the field of basketball in the Flint area, as well as the State of Michigan as a whole. Anyone who knew Stan will tell you that he was much more than a coach to our community. He was a man who loved his players and truly loved the game of basketball. As the Member of Congress representing the Fifth District of Michigan, I am honored to recognize his life and to have represented Stan.

In 2006, Stan was inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame after building a legendary basketball program over the span of 41 years, retiring in 2000. Throughout his four-decade-long career, he established himself as a genius coaching high school basketball and was recognized and respected for his skills by colleagues. During his career, he led his Flint Central basketball team to three straight Class A State Championship, from 1981 to 1983. This success, many of his fans believe, is attributed to a coaching system of ‘organized chaos.’

Former players saw him as “one of the greatest high school coaches in this area.” Not only was he inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame, and the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame, and the Michigan High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame, but he was also respected for molding some of these high school students into successful, professional athletes.

For these and many other reasons, I feel compelled to honor the legacy of Stan Gooch. I hope that his legacy, as a coach and a man, will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2017 EARLHAM HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Earlham High School Jazz Band for being named the Iowa Class 2A State Jazz Band Champions.

I would like to congratulate each member of the band:

Band Members:

Director: Nate Sletten.

Mr. Speaker, the band’s success this year is a testament of their hard work, perseverance, and teamwork. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating these young men and women, and their director for being crowned the 2017 Iowa Class 2A Jazz Band Champions and in wishing them all nothing but continued success.

HONORING RETIRING BURBANK MAYOR HARRY KLEIN

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Harry Klein who is retiring after serving the city of Burbank as their mayor for 26 years.

Mayor Klein was first appointed mayor in 1991 after the previous mayor resigned due to health concerns. He was subsequently elected to six consecutive terms starting in 1993. He has been a resident of Burbank since 1964 and raised three children in the community. He now has seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

As the Mayor of Burbank, Harry has been especially active on infrastructure issues, a priority for the residents of Burbank. He was instrumental in paving sidewalks all throughout the community. He also prioritized the installation of street lights in Burbank, significantly increasing the walkability and safety of the city.

Mayor Klein has represented the interests of the residents of Burbank very well overall these 26 years. He personally answered his constituents’ phone calls and did his absolute best to solve whatever problems they had. In his city of 29,000, he knows many residents by name and will speak with them on the street whenever he can. Just recently I witnessed the love that residents have for Harry as they greeted him at Opening Day at Burbank America and Burbank National Little Leagues.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mayor Harry Klein for his public service and congratulate him on his achievements. He is well deserving of praise for the energy he has dedicated to improving the lives of the residents of Burbank. I wish him the best in his retirement.

HASSON REDDICK FIRST ROUND NFL DRAFT PICK

HON. DWIGHT EVANS
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, right now, the NFL playoffs are going on but my Philadelphia Flyers are sitting in the penalty box, and as NBA teams seek the title in the NBA playoffs, sadly the Sixers have fouled out. But Philadelphia fans who were not Hasson Reddick, a proud member of the Temple football team gives us all something to cheer for—because not only did he graduate already but he was picked in the First Round of the NFL DRAFT at number 13—lucky number 13.

I want to extend my congratulations to Hasson Reddick. Hasson Reddick graduated from Temple University in Philadelphia with a degree in Criminal Justice in December 2016. As you know, the NFL draft was in the City of Philadelphia last week and Line Backer Hasson Reddick was a first round draft pick at number 13.

Hasson Reddick grew up in Camden, New Jersey. His mom is an educator at a Head Start in New Jersey and always stressed the importance of getting a good education. Education was always her top priority for her son. Hasson Reddick’s father would practice football with his son early in the morning every day.

Hasson Reddick started as a walk-on at Temple and was a part of the team for his entire college career. Hasson Reddick is the true embodiment of perseverance. He is an example of persistence, keeping at a dream and not taking the word “no” for an answer. Hasson Reddick has not only made his family and friends proud but he has made the City of Philadelphia and the City of Camden proud. Congrats again, way to set a wonderful example for our neighborhoods.

HONORING GARY THOMAS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, we rise today in memory of Judge Gary Thomas, who passed away on April 3, 2017, after a lifetime of service to his community.

A graduate of the University of San Francisco and the University of San Francisco School of Law, Judge Thomas joined the California Bar in 1962. From 1962 to 1968, Judge Thomas was also a member of the United States Air Force Reserve. A San Rafael resident, Judge Thomas spent his professional life serving Marin County, first as a county prosecutor, then as an assistant district attorney, then as a Judge appointed in 1972 by Governor Ronald Reagan, where he was reelected by the public several times.

Mr. Thomas was paralyzed during the 1970 shootout at the Marin County Civic Center where he was prosecuting a case against a San Quentin inmate who was charged with assaulting a prison guard. During the trial, the defendant’s brother, along with others, took Judge Thomas, Judge Harold Haley, and...
Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Cindy and Dick Ryba of Trenton, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on March 31, 2017.

Cindy and Dick's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.
has demonstrated a steadfast devotion to the community through his work, often putting his own safety at risk in order protect others. Sergeant Welsh also served his country and community as a member of the United States Coast Guard Reserve for over 20 years.

As a pillar of Springfield Township, Sergeant Welsh has rightly been nominated as Officer of the Year as part of the 25th Annual Springfield Loyalty Day.

I thank Sergeant Welsh for his service.

30 YEARS OF SERVICE—REVEREND ANZALONE

HON. VICKY HARTZLER
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Alan Anzalone, born in Kansas City and raised in Deepwater, Missouri. Alan has dedicated 30 years of service to Brownington Baptist Church.

From an early age, Alan committed himself to bettering his community, helping those in need and setting an example for his peers through excelling in academics, athletics and school spirit. At age 17, Alan answered his calling from God and became Pastor of his church. Not only has he led followers to the Faith but he has also guided the renovation of the Church over the years to better suit the community’s needs. I am honored to share my gratitude and respect for Reverend Alan Anzalone, and his generosity and service are an inspiration to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE JOHNSON
OF LOUISIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, on April 20, I attended a meeting at the White House to discuss important issues and policy to my home state with President Donald Trump.

Because of this meeting I missed Roll Call vote 236 on H.J. Res. 99—Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes.

Had I been present, I would have voted “Yea” on passage.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JOHN FRANCIS GIONFRIDDO

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. John Francis Gionfriddo on his graduation from George Mason University and wish him well as he begins the next chapter in his life.

Mr. Gionfriddo was born February 9, 1993 in Fairfax, Virginia to his parents Elizabeth and Joseph Gionfriddo. John was born with a congenital heart defect, and when he was just three weeks old underwent heart surgery. While doctors were able to repair his heart, John suffered complications after surgery. Since he was young, John has never been intimidated by imposed limitations with regards to his disability and has pursued friendships, work, and schooling without hesitation.

In 1997, John became a big brother to his brother Andrew, and a few years later, his youngest brother, Frank. In 2008, the Gionfriddo family relocated to England where John began high school at the International Community School in London. While living abroad, John enjoyed traveling throughout Europe with his parents and brothers. In 2011, the Gionfriddo family returned to the United States where John attended Herndon High School. Eager to gain professional experience, John began an internship at Dranesville Elementary School as an Assistant to the Librarian, a position he proudly holds to this day.

In 2013, John graduated from Herndon High School and enrolled in the George Mason University’s film project, “Intellectual Disabilities,” a postsecondary education program for young adults with intellectual disabilities. John was extremely active on campus, joining the Special Olympics Basketball Team and serving as a Member of the Best Buddies Program.

Dedicated to expanding his professional skills, John participated in the Congressional Internship Program for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, and as a result, joined my team in September 2015 where he spent three semesters as a Congressional Intern in my Washington, D.C. Office. In this role, John was responsible for supply inventory, organizing and assigning mail, and assisting staff with day-to-day projects. John’s eagerness to help others, dedication to his work, and positive outlook on life were invaluable to my team.

In his free time, John enjoys walking the family dog, Lily, listening to a variety of music, spending time at the family cabin in Pennsylvania, drinking coffee and eating out with family and friends. Throughout his life, John has been dedicated to helping others. In 2014, he was awarded the Jeff Watkins Volunteer of the Year Award for his work with Fairfax County’s Summer Therapeutic Recreation Program. He also serves on the advisory board for The Institute on Disability (IOD) at the University of New Hampshire’s film project, “Intelligent Lives.”

On May 20, 2017, John will graduate from the George Mason University LIFE Program, an incredible accomplishment. Following graduation, John will begin an exciting career helping others at SourceAmerica, a company dedicated to creating jobs for individuals with disabilities. While we are disappointed Mr. Gionfriddo’s time with our office has come to an end, we are excited as he begins this next chapter in his life.

While Mr. Gionfriddo may have joined my office to gain work experience and learn about government, it was truly John who taught my team about compassion, dedication, and what it means to help others. The sky is the limit for John, and I cannot wait to see what he accomplishes in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mr. John Francis Gionfriddo on his college graduation and wishing him well as he embarks on the next chapter of his life.

TRIBUTE TO JANET AND RICHARD MOORE

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Janet and Richard Moore of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on April 2, 1967.

Janet and Richard’s lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 28, 2017, I was not present for roll call votes 235, 236 and 237. Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted: Nay on roll call vote 235; Yea on roll call vote 236; and Yea on roll call vote 237.

TRIBUTE TO MARK BRANDENBURG

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mark Brandenburg of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for being inducted into the Thomas Jefferson High School Hall of Fame. Mark is a 1973 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs.

Mark attended Iowa Western Community College and received a degree in mathematics. After graduation, he moved on to earn a bachelor’s degree in Management and Human Resources from Bellevue University. Mark’s career began at the Omaha Public Power District but he was just getting started. He was eventually elected to the Council Bluffs Community School District Board, served two terms as a State Representative in the Iowa House of Representatives, and currently serves as the Pottawattamie County Recorder. Mark is active in the Council Bluffs community and has worked with the Iowa Western Community College Alumni Association, the Union Pacific Railroad Museum Board, the Senior Center Board, and the Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross.
Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Mark on his induction into the Hall of Fame at Thomas Jefferson High School. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mark and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING GREG MARIUS
HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Greg Marius.

Known affectionately as “the Commissioner”, Mr. Marius founded the Entertainer’s Basketball Classic (EBC) at Holcombe Rucker Park in Harlem in 1982. Originally conceived of as a way for rival hip-hop crews to establish blacktop bragging rights, the EBC has evolved into the world’s premier streetball basketball showcase.

A highlight on the City’s summer calendar for decades, the EBC pits playground standouts against the country’s most talented professional players, all provided free of charge to the delight of thousands of exuberant fans. NBA stars like LeBron James, Kevin Durant, and Vince Carter have all played in the tournament, facing off against the best streetballers Harlem has to offer.

As one of the first people to connect basketball and hip-hop music, Mr. Marius created an all-inclusive atmosphere that celebrated the game, its culture, and its fans. Through his aggressive promotion, Mr. Marius enlisted hip-hop stars like Jay-Z, Sean “Diddy” Combs, Fat Joe, and others to sponsor teams, helping to attract corporate sponsors like Reebok and Gatorade and raise the profile of the EBC to an unprecedented level.

By remaining committed to keeping the EBC in Harlem, Mr. Marius had a far-reaching impact on our community. A lifelong Harlem resident, he often spoke of how fortunate he was to create memories in the neighborhood where he grew up. He also prided himself on keeping alive the legacy of Holcombe Rucker, the park’s namesake who founded his own tournament in 1946 that provided neighborhood youths a positive outlet to keep them off the streets.

Further, by taking a touring version of the EBC on the road to other cities Mr. Marius played an integral role in broadening streetball’s audience. Without Greg Marius, it is safe to say that New York City, specifically Holcombe Rucker Park in Harlem, would not be the international symbol of basketball prowess that it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay remembrance to Mr. Marius and ask that we continue to carry along his legacy and love for streetball in Harlem.

TRIBUTE TO ROSE AND LOUIS STORTEMBERG
HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Rose and Louis Stortenbecker of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on April 2, 2017.

Rose and Louis’ lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DANIEL McGONIGAL
HON. PATRICK MEEHAN
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Daniel McGonigal of the Springfield Township Fire Company. Daniel joined the Company in 2013. Two years later, he decided to also answer the call to service for his country and joined the U.S. Navy. Despite his full-time service to the nation, Daniel does his most to help the Fire Company and his community when he returns home on leave.

As a pillar of Springfield Township, Daniel has rightly been nominated as VFW Firefighter of the Year as part of the 25th Annual Springfield Loyalty Day.

I thank Daniel for his service.

HONORING THE DEFENDERS OF BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR AND REMEMBERING THE FALL OF BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR IN MAY 1942
HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY
OF WEST VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor in remembrance of the 75th Anniversary of the fall of Bataan and Corregidor in May of 1942.

From December 8, 1941, until May 6, 1942 American soldiers, marines, sailors, nurses and airmen fought alongside the members of Philippine army in defense of the Philippine Archipelago.

On December 8, 1941, a day after the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor, bombs were dropped on Clark Field, starting what would become known as the Philippine Campaign or the Battle of the Philippines.

On April 9, 1942, after fighting for four months without reinforcements and supplies, Major General Edward King, Jr. surrendered the forces under his command on the Bataan Peninsula. Upon surrender of the American and Filipino forces, the Japanese encountered twice as many captives as reports had estimated, thus creating an enormous logistical challenge—the transport and movement of over 60,000 starving, sick, and debilitated prisoners and over 38,000 equally weakened civilian noncombatants that had been caught up in the battle. The prisoners and refugees had to be moved north to get them out of the way of the final Japanese assault on Corregidor, but there was simply not enough mechanized transport to move the masses of wounded, sick, and weakened prisoners. The Japanese solution was to force march the 60,000 prisoners north from Mariveles to San Fernando and from Capas to Camp O’Donnell—a distance of approximately 66 miles.

This has become known as the Bataan Death March. Starting on April 9, 1942 and lasting for seven days, credible sources report widely differing prisoner of war casualties—from 5,000 to 18,000 Filipino deaths and 500 to 650 American deaths—that resulted. Forced to march without food or water, many simply could not continue. Prisoners were bayoneted, shot or buried alive if they could not walk. If any tried to escape they were shot.

The final assault on American and Filipino forces in defense of the Philippines came on May 5, 1942 with an assault on the island of Corregidor and ended on May 8, 1942—when General Jonathan M. Wainwright surrendered forces under his command to the Japanese commander, Lt. General Masaharu Homma of the 14th Japanese Army, thus ending the Battle for the Philippines.

For the next three and a half years Americans were held by the Japanese in the Philippines, Formosa, Korea, China and Japan in POW camps and forced to work for Japanese companies in support of the Japanese war effort. When Japan finally surrendered, American forces sent to Japan found these men and women emaciated—some weighing as little as a third of their normal weight. Suffering for three and a half years, these men and women endured unspeakable hardships and atrocities at the hands of their captors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and remembering those who suffered so much in the name of freedom during World War II on this, the 75th Anniversary of the Bataan Death March and the Battle for the Philippines. We are eternally grateful for men such as Ed Jackfert of Wellsburg, West Virginia—who is still with us—as well as those who have recently passed such as Joe Vater, Abie Abraham and Lester Tenney. These men were part of the Greatest Generation and fought in defense of their country during World War II.

BUILDING SAFETY MONTH
HON. LOU BARLETTA
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today marks the beginning of Building Safety Month, and I would like to recognize the men and women of...
the International Code Council who have dedicated their livelihoods to ensuring the safety of Americans both in their homes and workplaces.

Building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, and others in the construction industry work year-round to ensure the safety of the structures that we live in. It is through their efforts that our nation continues to address critical safety issues in the built environment that affect our citizens, both, in everyday life and in times of natural disaster.

These individuals, who are dedicated members of the International Code Council, develop and implement the highest quality codes to protect Americans in the buildings where we work, live, and play. The International Codes, the most widely adopted building safety and fire prevention codes in the nation, are used by most U.S. cities, counties, and by all 50 states. These modern building safety codes also include safeguards to protect the public from natural disasters, such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires, and earthquakes.

Each year, in observance of Building Safety Month, Americans are asked to consider projects to improve building safety at home and in the community, and to acknowledge the essential services provided to all of us by local and state building departments and federal agencies in protecting life and property. Building Safety Month, which is sponsored by the International Code Council, reminds the public about the critical role of our communities' largely unsung heroes of public safety—our local code officials—who help prevent countless fires and accidents. "Code officials: Partners in Community Safety and Economic Growth," the theme for Building Safety Month 2017, encourages all Americans to raise awareness of the importance of building safety.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the International Code Council as they recognize Building Safety Month.

TRIBUTE TO TRUDY EVANS

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Trudy Evans of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for being inducted into the Thomas Jefferson High School Hall of Fame. Trudy is a 1966 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs.

Trudy was the first member of her extended family to graduate from college when she graduated from the University of Iowa, going on to have a distinguished career in the Council Bluffs Community School District. She served in a number of positions throughout her career including: as a curriculum strategist, a Talented and Gifted program teacher, the principal of Pusey, Lewis & Clark, Crescent, Rue, and Washington elementary schools, and finally as a teacher at the Tinley Early Childhood Center. Trudy has been recognized for her outstanding contributions as an educator, receiving the Elementary Excellence in Teaching Math Award and the Council Bluffs Teacher of the Year award. She was also a finalist for the Iowa Teacher of the Year. Even with her busy schedule, Trudy still finds time to volunteer in her community with the Muddy Paws Second Chance organization, Children's Theater in Council Bluffs, and is a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Trudy on her induction into the Thomas Jefferson High School Hall of Fame. I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Trudy on this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN MEMORIAL DAY FLY IN 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE ROGERS
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Day Fly In. The first black combat aviation unit comprised of pilots and supporter personnel trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field.

The Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Day Fly In honors the Tuskegee Airmen, the widowers and family members of the Tuskegee Airmen and talented and enthusiastic individuals all focused on the goal of honoring the heroic Tuskegee Airmen.

In 1940, the military selected Tuskegee Institute to train pilots because of its commitment to aeronautical training, its facilities, engineering and technical instructors and its suitable climate for year-round flying.

In May of 1940, the first Civilian Pilot Training Program students completed their training. "The Tuskegee Experience" later grew to become a center for African-American aviation during World War II.

These brave airmen overcame segregation and prejudice to become one of the most respected fighter groups of WWII paving the way for full integration of the U.S. military. The Tuskegee Airmen exemplify the State of Alabama's priority on education and experience.

This commemoration of their legacy comes directly from the efforts and determination of over 16,000 courageous men and women and recognizes the fortitude of these individuals to stand strong in the face of adversity. Their accomplishments gave way to the continuation on a grand scale through the introduction of American youth to the world of aviation, technology, engineering and math through local and national programs and activities.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing today, May 19–20, 2017, as Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Day Fly In 50th Anniversary.

IMPORTANCE OF WORK SAFETY

HON. BILLY LONG
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the men and women who have lost their lives at work due to unsafe work conditions. In 2015, 4,836 workers were killed on the job. That's 4,836 reasons to remember the importance of work safety.

This week in Missouri's 7th Congressional District the Mid America Safety Health & Environmental Conference is being held by the Missouri Association of Manufacturers. This conference is designed to provide general work safety training while also discussing the importance of safe work environments.

As those who have lost loved ones gather at the conference this week, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration will have a memorial service acknowledging those families as well as the many other families who have lost loved ones due to unsafe work conditions.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the men and women who have lost their lives due to unsafe work conditions and the families who have lost their loved ones because of this.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WARRENVILLE, ILLINOIS

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the incorporation of Warrenville, Illinois.

Warrenville, whose motto is "For a Visit, Or a Lifetime", is a model for other cities and towns to follow, through its continued dedication to building a friendly and welcoming community for residents and visitors alike.

In the years since its first permanent settlers, Julius and Daniel Warren, and its incorporation, Warrenville has become a center of culture and commerce, serving as a home to families, businesses, professionals, churches and organizations that have made this a vibrant and thriving community. Warrenville's culture and commerce, serving as a home to families, businesses, professionals, churches and organizations that have made this a vibrant and thriving community. Warrenville's culture and commerce, serving as a home to families, businesses, professionals, churches and organizations that have made this a vibrant and thriving community. Warrenville's culture and commerce, serving as a home to families, businesses, professionals, churches and organizations that have made this a vibrant and thriving community.

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TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY AND ELVIN BREACH

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Shirley and Elvin Breach of Atlantic, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on February 16, 2017 and were married at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa.

Shirley and Elvin’s lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBIN SPROUL FOR HER OUTSTANDING CAREER WITH ABC NEWS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Robin Sproul for her work with ABC News as she prepares to begin the next chapter in her storied career. For the past 41 years, Ms. Sproul has had an accomplished career as a journalist with ABC and has helped make it a world-class news organization that maintains the highest standards of professionalism. In sum, she has become one of Washington’s most respected journalists.

Ms. Sproul began her career as a news assignment manager WMAL-Radio in Washington, D.C. in 1976. She then joined ABC News in 1981 as a Washington bureau chief for ABC News Radio, covering election analysis and political conventions. In addition to these responsibilities, Ms. Sproul produced U.S. radio coverage of military operations, including missions in the Persian Gulf. In 1993, she was named vice president and Washington bureau chief for ABC News, where she supervised and directed the organization’s TV, radio and digital coverage of Washington, D.C.

Ms. Sproul excelled in her role covering national news and events and also served as the organization’s liaison with the federal government. In 2014, she was promoted to Vice President of Public Affairs for ABC News, where she focused on the network’s political debates and external relations in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Sproul has had an outstanding tenure at ABC and was critical to the growth and success of the organization. Throughout her career, Ms. Sproul has earned numerous honors for her balanced and comprehensive coverage of important events. She was a member of the ABC News team to win an Emmy for their coverage of President Barack Obama’s Inauguration. In addition, Ms. Sproul has won George Foster Peabody Awards for coverage of September 11 attacks and coverage of U.S. military actions in the Persian Gulf. These accolades underscore her commitment to honest and accessible coverage of the news, as well as the respect she has among her industry peers. Through it all, Ms. Sproul recognized the importance of mentoring, especially other women. Breaking many glass ceilings herself, she has always practiced women supporting women. She will be missed as she moves on to a new stage in her career.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Robin Sproul for her work with ABC News. Her hard work, knowledge and professionalism have been vital to making ABC News the organization that exists today.

TRIBUTE TO PATSY AND PAUL O’NEILL

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Patsy and Paul O’Neill of Neola, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on March 29, 1967 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Patsy and Paul’s lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE OLSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, regretfully, I missed votes on H.J. Res. 99 as I was at the White House for the signing of an executive order on offshore energy resources. American energy policy is critically important to my district. I look forward to being part of future work in the House on fiscally responsible spending measures. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 235, and YEA on Roll Call No. 236.

HONORING RETIRING ORLAND PARK MAYOR DAN MCLAUGHLIN

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Dan McLaughlin who served the Village of Orland Park as an elected official for 34 years.

Dan McLaughlin was elected mayor of the village six times beginning in 1993. Prior to his election as mayor he served eight years as a Orland Park Trustee, starting his service to the community in 1983.

During his 34 years serving Orland Park, Dan McLaughlin has seen the population of the village expand from around 25,000 to nearly 59,000. As mayor, he helped drive significant commercial and public infrastructure development. He recently oversaw the construction of the “Main Street Triangle,” a 27-acre site in the center of the community. This includes the 108,000-square-foot University of Chicago Medicine Center for Advanced Care. Significant improvements to La Grange Road were also completed under Mayor McLaughlin.

Dan McLaughlin has been a champion of veterans during his public service, honoring those who have served our nation. He was also instrumental in Orland Park’s Special Recreation programs for the handicapped and was a leader in open lands preservation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mayor Dan McLaughlin for his public service and thank him for all that he has done for Orland Park and the region. I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF URBANDALE

HON. DAVID YOUNG
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Urbandale, Iowa, on the 100th anniversary of the city’s incorporation.

The City of Urbandale was first incorporated on April 16, 1917. Many early residents found employment in several local coal mines until those were closed by the late 1940s. Urbandale was also a “street car suburb,” where residents could commute to their jobs in the city via a street car on the “Urbandale Line” until they were replaced by Trolley buses in the early 1950s. Over the decades the town saw homes go up, restaurants and business open and flourish, and people from all over pass through its streets, from presidential candidates to its most famous visitor, Pope John Paul II, when he held mass at Living History Farms in 1979. At its core, Urbandale is an Iowa town where you want to raise your family. At its inception, only 298 people called it home. Today, Urbandale houses over 40,000 residents.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent the citizens of Urbandale in the United States Congress and I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing the City of Urbandale nothing but continued success.
IN HONOR OF ERNEST “ERNIE” DIPIETRO

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor a dear friend, Ernest “Ernie” DiPietro. Ernie passed away on April 24th at the age of 73. Ernie dedicated his life to public service, leaving behind a legacy in Cheshire, Connecticut that will never be forgotten.

Ernie was born in Chicago, Illinois on February 27, 1944. He graduated from Croft High School in Waterbury, before going on to earn his Bachelor’s Degree at the University of New England, and his Master’s Degree at the University of Hartford. Ernie proudly served our country in the U.S. Army Reserves during the Vietnam War. Reflecting his commitment to all who have served in the Armed Forces, Ernie served as American Legion Commander for Storey Post 92 of Cheshire, enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.

A committed educator, Ernie taught for the Wolcott Public School System and was a member of the Mattatuck Community College faculty. Ernie will always be remembered by friends and family for his great passion for politics and the nearly three decades that he led the Cheshire Democratic Party. I am grateful for his many years of friendship and his guidance to me and so many others who have served on beloved town.

Ernie’s involvement and leadership in numerous social organizations has made an immeasurable impact on the Cheshire community. Ernie was a co-marshals for Cheshire’s Memorial Day parade, as well as an integral member of the Cheshire Veterans Council. Fellow member of the Cheshire Veterans Council, Leslie Marinaro, remembers Ernie’s years of dedication fondly, stating, “Ernie’s footprint will remain forever in Cheshire and among our veterans.” In addition, Ernie was active in many other organizations, including the Cheshire Kiwanis Club, Cheshire Land Trust, Cheshire Historical Society, and the Friends of Cheshire Library.

Ernie was also a devoted family man. He loved his wonderful wife of 46 years, Carol, who shared his passion for politics and public service. Ernie will also be missed by his brother-in-law, cousins, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, and his many friends.

I had the great fortune to know Emie DiPietro and call him my friend. His warm heart, sense of humor, infectious smile, and love of life touched all who knew him. He truly left the world a better place.

Ernie’s life embodied the spirit of civic engagement that strengthens our communities, and makes our country a better place. His contributions to the Town of Cheshire, the State of Connecticut, and to the United States of America will not be forgotten. Ernie, we love you and we miss you.

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, May 2, 2017 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
MAY 3

10 a.m. Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense laboratories and their contributions to military operations and readiness.
SR–222 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine investing in America’s broadband infrastructure, focusing on exploring ways to reduce barriers to deployment.
SR–253 Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine infrastructure project streamlining and efficiency, focusing on achieving faster, better, and cheaper results.
SD–406 Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on Multilateral International Development, Multilateral Institutions, and International Economic, Energy, and Environmental Policy
To hold hearings to examine global philanthropy and remittances and international development.
SD–419 Committee on the Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
SD–226 Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine defense innovation and research funding.
SD–192 Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine the economy and private sector growth.
SD–608...
grants, and S. 825, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium located in Sitka, Alaska.

SD-628

Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine aging with community, focusing on building connections that last a lifetime.

SD-562

POSTPONEMENTS
MAY 4

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense policies and programs.

SR-232A
D471

Monday, May 1, 2017

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2641–2657

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 991–1000, and S. Res. 148. Page S2650

Measures Reported:

S. 317, to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 115–34)

S. 652, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 849, to support programs for mosquito-borne and other vector-borne disease surveillance and control, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 916, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with regard to the provision of emergency medical services, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 920, to establish a National Clinical Care Commission.

Measures Passed:

Silver Star Service Banner Day: Committee on Armed Services was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 135, expressing support for the designation of May 1, 2017, as “Silver Star Service Banner Day”, and the resolution was then agreed to. Page S2653

Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017, Improvements Act: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. 371, to make technical changes and other improvements to the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: Pages S2653–54

Cornyn (for Corker) Amendment No. 209, to require that the comparative report on peacekeeping operations include an assessment of the operational, structural, and doctrinal differences between the military and civilian infrastructures of the United States and United Nations and other assumptions that impact cost estimates. Page S2653

18th Annual National Charter Schools Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 148, congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and leaders of charter schools across the United States for making ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 18th annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 1 through May 5, 2017. Page S2654

Clayton Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Jay Clayton, of New York, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Pages S2645–48, S2654

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

By 60 yeas to 36 nays (Vote No. 117), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. Pages S2647–48

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, with the time until 12:30 p.m. equally divided in the usual form; and that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business and Leader remarks count post-cloture on the nomination. Page S2654

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

2 Army nominations in the rank of general.
21 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.
19 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.
Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. Pages S2655–57
House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 25 public bills, H.R. 2258–2279; 1 private bill, H.R. 2280; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 300–302 were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors:

Recess: The House recessed at 12:17 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.  Page H2977

Recess: The House recessed at 2:06 p.m. and reconvened at 4:30 p.m.  Page H2978

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Fair Access to Investment Research Act of 2017: H.R. 910, amended, to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 405 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 237;  Pages H2978–80

Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act: H.R. 1312, amended, to amend the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 to require an annual review by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the annual government-business forum on capital formation that is held pursuant to such Act, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 406 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 238; Pages H2980–81

U.S. Territories Investor Protection Act of 2017: H.R. 1366, to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to terminate an exemption for companies located in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and any other possession of the United States; Pages H2981–83

Follow the Rules Act: H.R. 657, amended, to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend certain protections against prohibited personnel practices, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 407 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 239; Pages H2983–84

Recess: The House recessed at 5:33 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.
Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2988, H2988–89, and H2989. There were no quorum calls.
Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Committee Meetings
WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2017
Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1180, the “Working Families Flexibility Act of 2017”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–3, a closed rule for H.R. 1180. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–15 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In section 2, the rule provides that on any legislative day during the period from May 5, 2017, through May 15, 2017: the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment. In section 3, the rule provides that the Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2. In section 4, the rule provides that it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of May 4, 2017, or May 5, 2017, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules and that the Speaker or his designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section. Finally, in section 5, the rule waives clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against any resolution reported through the legislative day of May 5, 2017. Testimony was heard from Chairman Foxx and Representative Polis.

Joint Meetings
No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS
(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D440)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY,
MAY 2, 2017
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine United States European Command, focusing on theater assessment and European Reassurance Initiative (ERI) progress; to be immediately following by a closed hearing in SVC–217, 2:30 p.m., SD–124.
Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine United States Transportation Command, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the United States-European Union covered agreement, 10 a.m., SD–538.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold an oversight hearing to examine federal payments to local governments provided through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act and the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program and the need to provide greater fiscal certainty for resource-dependent communities with tax-exempt federal lands, 10 a.m., SD–366.
Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Terry Branstad, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China, Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.
Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine responses to the increase in religious hate crimes, 10:30 a.m., SD–226.

House
Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled “Overview of the Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies”, 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.
Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Examining Improvements to the Regulation of Medical Technologies”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Combating Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in Medicaid’s Personal Care Services Program”, 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.
Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 10, the “Financial CHOICE Act of 2017”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.


Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing entitled “Examining the Consequences of Executive Branch Overreach of the Antiquities Act”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, markup on the “Modernizing Government Technology Act of 2017”; H.R. 2196, to amend title 5, United States Code, to allow whistleblowers to disclose information to certain recipients; H.R. 2195, the “OSC Access Act”; and the “All Circuit Review Act”, 10:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.


Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on Senate Amendments to H.R. 244, the “HIRE Vets Act”, 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2105, the “NIST Small Business Cybersecurity Act of 2017”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of U.S. Airline Customer Service”, 9:30 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Full Committee, hearing on the “Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017”, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “VA Specialized Services: Lower Extremity Conditions”, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to receive a briefing on post-referendum Turkey, focusing on institutions and human rights, 10:30 a.m., 2255, Rayburn Building.
Résumé of Congressional Activity

FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

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

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY
January 3 through April 30, 2017

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<th>Senate</th>
<th>House</th>
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<td>Days in session</td>
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<td>Time in session</td>
<td>445 hrs., 37'</td>
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<td>Public bills enacted into law</td>
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<td>Private bills enacted into law</td>
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<td>Bills in conference</td>
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DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS
January 3 through April 30, 2017

Civilians nominations, totaling 97, disposed of as follows:

- Confirmed .......................................................... 29
- Unconfirmed ......................................................... 43
- Withdrawn .......................................................... 25

Other Civilian nominations, totaling 371, disposed of as follows:

- Unconfirmed ......................................................... 371

Air Force nominations, totaling 1,616, disposed of as follows:

- Confirmed .......................................................... 58
- Unconfirmed ......................................................... 1,558

Army nominations, totaling 2,726, disposed of as follows:

- Confirmed .......................................................... 7
- Unconfirmed ......................................................... 2,719

Navy nominations, totaling 186, disposed of as follows:

- Confirmed .......................................................... 1
- Unconfirmed ......................................................... 185

Marine Corps nominations, totaling 1,252, disposed of as follows:

- Unconfirmed ......................................................... 1,252

Summary

- Total nominations carried over from the First Session .............. .
- Total nominations received from this Session ......................... 6,248
- Total confirmed ........................................................ 95
- Total unconfirmed ...................................................... 6,128
- Total withdrawn ....................................................... 25
- Total returned to the White House .................................. .

* These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 33 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 101 reports have been filed in the House.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Tuesday, May 2

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Jay Clayton, of New York, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, post-cloture.

(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
10 a.m., Tuesday, May 2

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 1180—Working Families Flexibility Act of 2017 (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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